

Cambridgeshire Women: a Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Many of these stories were featured in my ‘Looking Back’ column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014. They are supplemented by some selections ‘From our Old Files’ published in the Cambridge Independent Press and other notes.

The complete ‘Cambridgeshire Scrapbook’ of which this is a small section is published online at [bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection)

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.  
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

1897 02 04  
Women suffrage bill

1897 02 26

The clerk to the Ely Guardians applied for the removal of Tabitha Camm, an eccentric old woman aged 72 years who is living in a tumbled-down old hovel in Littleport fen. The place was filthy in the extreme. She has lived there all her life and she tenaciously sticks to it. PC King said the walls were tumbling down and the bricks had no mortar between them. The rain penetrated and soot and dirt covered the place. The lady is independent in every sense of the word and would-be sympathisers are quickly ordered to decamp

1897 03 08

At St Paul's church on Sunday morning the Rev Dr Stokes said "The town owes a debt of gratitude to the authorities for their elaborate and extensive efforts to check the gambling evil which for some time past has been rampant in our midst. It has for many months been a matter of public scandal that certain men have been at the corners of some of our streets enticing young men and lads, as well as unwary men and even women into betting and gambling. It was of great importance to capture not one or two only but the whole band, and especially those who finance the business. As the guilty parties promised never again to infringe the new bye-law it is not to be wondered at that the magistrates only imposed a small fine but it is a matter of regret that no severe punishment could be inflicted on these corruptors of the morals of our town"

1897 03 11

On Monday evening as a cow was being put in a railway truck it broke loose and scattering all hands by its fierce aspect tore up the Station-road. When it arrived at Back Hill a woman with more courage than her sex are usually credited with under such circumstances rushed out with open arms to stop its progress. The infuriated animal turned on her, but she fortunately escaped. It next ran down Silver Street and put to flight some of the newly-enlisted Militia recruits. It knocked down Reuben Lemon, the Cathedral watchman and attacked Mr J. Rogers and tossed him as high as the eaves of Mrs Ellis' barn.

1897 03 16

The "Cambridge Daily News" makes proposals. A municipal washhouse. We believe there are hundreds of women in Cambridge - the wives of working men - who would hail with the liveliest satisfaction the establishment of a place where they could do their week's washing with some degree of comfort. How many homes belonging to the humbler classes are there without anything like proper washing and drying accommodation to the occupants of which such a place would be a boon and a blessing

1897 03 20

Mr Edwin Bays, architect, forwards particulars of a scheme for erecting a viaduct, with Bathing Sheds under, leading from the Trumpington Road, Cambridge, to Newnham. The proposed viaduct road would start from the Leys School grounds, Coe Fen, Newnham and terminating at Grantchester and Barton-roads. It will be necessary to construct two river and three road arches and it is intended to utilise one as a Swimming Bath for women, and the other two as dressing rooms

1897 04 07

Much amusement was caused at the meeting of the Peterborough Board of Guardians by the reading of the following from a labouring man. "Gentlemen. i was told some time back that you wud git a wife for a respectful man out of the Union (workhouse) if i wud ax you and so gentlemen I take the liberty. i am nearly 64 years old and work on the land. it is hard lines for a body to go home and find no body home to cook his food and so forth. if you have a nice lookin woman in the house as you can spare me for a wife it would lessen the rates and be a comfort to me. i should like her to be about

thirty or forty and could work well. She must be good looking well up to her work and I well try and make a gud usband to her" - signed Thomas Smith

1897 05 05

While the members of the University Senate are engaged in a fierce contest to decide whether women shall be admitted to the titles of degrees, the undergraduates have given most emphatic expressions to their opinion. A committee was formed and within six days over 2,100 signatures (the total number of undergraduates and Bachelors is only 2,840) have been sent to a memorial expressing the conviction that the giving of degrees to women would prove injurious to the position and efficiency of the University as a University for men

1897 05 12

Last night a brilliant debate took place in the Debating Hall of the Cambridge University Union on the question of Women's Degrees. Mr T.F.R. McDonnell of St John's College said that one would suppose that as soon as the report had been passed a plague of women would descend upon Cambridge and infest everything. It was asked why women did not found a University of their own. A University was not built in a day and this would not prevent them from building one

1897 05 21

After the Senate House scenes yesterday (when the University voted against degrees for women) there was a brief respite. It was the calm before the storm. About 7 o'clock there was a grand gathering of the clans. Undergraduates began trooping through the streets to what was obviously a pre-arranged rendezvous - the Market Hill. From the four corners of the square fire was opened upon everybody and everything within range. Bombs, hand-rockets, and every description of firework manufactured were flung haphazard into the crowd until the scene resembled nothing so much as the bombardment of a hostile camp. It is no exaggeration to say that hundreds of pounds worth of stuff were got rid of during the five hours the proceedings lasted

1897 05 21

'The University of Cambridge' (the "Daily News" thinks) 'has not improved its reputation for sense and judgement by its votes (not to award women degrees). Not a single argument worthy of the name has been produced in favour of the decision'. 'Of the wisdom shown by the Cambridge Senate there can be but one opinion' (says the "Morning Post"). 'In rejecting by an overwhelming majority the Graces for giving Titles of Degrees to ladies they have done much to revive the reputation of their University for forethought and discretion'

1897 05 22

Undergraduate carnival following decision not to allow women to take degrees [3.5]

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1897 05 22

The custom of bestowing the Dunmow flitch of bacon has been suspended once more. It is probably abolished for ever, seeing that previous to its revival seven or eight years ago, it had fallen into desuetude. This might have been owing to the modern conditions attached to its bestowal. When in the reign of Henry VII it was made known that "he which repented him not of his marriage, sleeping or waking, in a yeere and a day, might lawfully fetch a gammon of bacon" from the priory church of Little Dunmow" this was comparatively easy of obtainment

1897 07 15

At the Cambridge Borough Police-court an Italian organ grinder was charged with threatening to stick a knife into the abdomen of P.C. Barringer. It was found necessary to engage an interpreter. In answer to the charge, prisoner said if the constable was in his country and interfered they would put a knife through him, but he did not mean that he would do it. He meant to say if the constable was in his country he would have a knife put into him by someone else. The policeman said he saw a woman playing an organ and as the street was full of traffic he requested her to "move on". Prisoner, who was very angry exclaimed "Me will fight you; Me will stick a knife in you"

1897 12 23

A laundress of Gloucester Street, Cambridge, was charged at the Borough Court with keeping a woman at work for more than 14 hours. Annie Sindell said she commenced work at 9.30 am Friday and worked until ten past six the next morning. She had an hour and a quarter for meals. The day was supposed to be of 12 hours, less meal times, and for that they got 1s.3d. She never agreed to work all night but the laundress would have the work done. She earned 7s.6d. for the whole week. The overtime pay was a penny an hour. The laundress was fined 7s.6. and costs

1898 05 28

Seven labourers were summoned for "tin kettling in Great Shelford. PC Chater said they were banging tins and trays, and such things, as well as shouting and yelling at a lady. Two of them had pails half full of tar which they used for burning the woman in effigy. This entertainment continued for about two hours. The woman said: "My husband won't part with his money, and that's why I left him." The magistrate: "What is your husband's name?" - "I don't know what his name is. I never took the trouble to remember his nasty name". Defendants were fined 2s.6d each. # c.39

1898 05 30

Women's life, p2

1898 06 03

The Cambridge YWCA, having found its old quarters growing too small and inadequate to its requirements has obtained Geneva House, Regent Street, and there established its head-quarters. Yesterday a meeting was convened at which the Vice Chancellor of the university presided and spoke. He said that the new premises were in every way more suited to the needs of the Association. In their new house the windows of the back rooms, which he fancied would be those most used by the young women, overlooked his garden, and he was unable to disabuse himself of an idea they would keep an eye on him. The Master of Trinity then rose. He said he had known nothing of the removal, and had been ignorant of the nature of the gathering he was to address. He did not like to trust his eyes, which were not of the best. He had never in all his experience known an educational establishment change its quarters without bettering itself

1898 06 15

We have received a copy of the petition presented to the Home Secretary, praying for the reprieve of Walter Horsford who lies in prison at Cambridge under sentence of death for the murder of Annie Holmes. It says the purchase of strychnine by the condemned man (upon which the prosecution relied) was made in an open manner in Thrapston. The police limited their searches to the chemists of the neighbourhood, from which in all probability a murderer would not secure poison. In any case it seems incredible that the condemned man should have acted so openly, if with a felonious design. Even if he did send the poison it is difficult to believe he did so with the object of killing the deceased woman

1898 09 05

Awful was the fate of an aged women residing in East Road Cambridge, on Saturday night. Her body was found scorched, blackened and blistered in her burning house. Every article of clothing was

burned, and not a hair remained on her head. Those who saw it were sickened at the uncanny sight. As quickly as possible she was carried to a costermonger's barrow and covered up with the first things that came to hand, after which she was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital. The fire brigade was hampered as the telegraph wires are set so low in that part of the town that it is impossible to run the fire escape along without catching the wires and causing not only damage but delay. In this instance the escape was delayed by catching the wires in Burleigh St

1898 12 28

On Christmas Eve the parish authorities at Steeple Morden were called upon to perform a strange act of seasonal charity. A young woman who had been seen about the neighbouring villages on the previous day gave birth to a child under a hedge by the wayside, where she had lain down to sleep, in the bitterly cold weather. The spot was far from human habitations and when the officials came on the scene they found the woman in a helpless plight and the new-born child dead by her side. They had her conveyed to the Union workhouse at Royston.

1899 01 03

A most extraordinary story has just come to light respecting the matrimonial affairs of a young woman residing in Cambridge. It appears she has been keeping company with a young man who lived away from Cambridge and it was arranged that the wedding should take place on Christmas Day. It transpired however that the laws with respect to residence in the district had not been complied with and the wedding was postponed until Sunday. The appointed hour drew near, but no bridegroom turned up, nor has he been seen since. Upon being shown the groom's photograph a police officer identified him as being "wanted" in connection with an assault which has since proved fatal. It is hoped the efforts of the police to bring such a heartless fellow to justice will prove successful Melbourn Christmas revelry \*

1899 03 04

Some time ago a man living in the Isle of Ely was suffering apparently from some disease of a cancerous nature; and his face and neck terribly swollen. He was discharged from Addenbrooke's Hospital as nothing could be done for him. He appeared on the verge of sinking when a woman said: "I know what will cure you. And it is this only. You must rub your face and neck with a dead woman's hand". Soon afterwards he heard a woman had died, he went to the house; his request was granted, and he spent a long time in the operation. He quickly recovered and is now hearty and well Bird catching, p3

1899 04 19

An inquiry held heard that half of the Spinning House was occupied as a police station. It had been built about 1840 and was far from up to date. There was no difference between the accommodation for male and female prisoners, and any women that might be kept in the police station all night had to be attended to by police constables on duty, there being no female warders or matrons. The cells were clean and in good order but were quite inadequate for the requirements of the town

1899 09 21

An alarming fire took place at Quaker's farm, in the fen near Lt Downham, causing the destruction of a farmhouse and rendering the occupants homeless. Mrs Watson and her washerwoman were just preparing to partake of luncheon when smoke was seen issuing from the thatch near a chimney stack. Pails of water were brought into requisition but had little or no effect. The Fire Brigade from Ely turned up, got a plentiful supply of water from a dyke and managed to extinguish the fire. By this time only the walls and chimney stacks of the old house – built in 1803 – were left standing

1899 10 25

A murder of a most ghastly and revolting nature was committed at Burwell Lode. It is rare that a murder so determined in its criminal intent as that perpetrated in the thick fog of the early morning on the banks of the river Lode is heard of. An old woman was brutally murdered by her husband in the

sight of their piteously-screaming thirteen-year-old daughter, & almost within a stone's throw of where two grown-up sons were working. & 26th p2

1899 10 27

A good deal of amusement was created at Littleport. From rumours widely circulated it was expected at a "real gypsy wedding" would take place at the parish church. Some said the contracting parties were to be taken thither in a caravan, that the bride would be attired in red plush and the father had presented the happy pair with a giant cup half filled with sovereigns. The building was filled by an expectant congregation, with prominent inhabitants and many of the young women from the factory. No bride and bridegroom presented themselves and the congregation made their departure with feeling that can better be imagined than described.

1900 02 22

"It is very hard lines", writes an anonymous correspondent, "for poor washerwomen to go to their work at 9am and then for their employers not to let them leave off until between 9 and 10 pm. It ought to be known that they don't allow the poor women time to swallow their meals before they want them to start again". The writer hopes her letter by induce "the laundresses to give the poor washerwomen a chance". If it is at all common for women to be kept at work for more than twelve hours without sufficient intervals for meals, a state of matters exists which urgently calls for redress.

1900 04 25

An inquest on an unnamed child was held at The Mad Cat public house, Pidley. A Somersham woman said she had acted for many years as midwife and had attended at least 100 confinements. The child was born at 10.30 and died about one o'clock. It was disfigured in the mouth. She gave it a little milk and warm water with a spoon but it ran out of the corner of its mouth. She did not think the child could suck and made no further attempt to give it any food. No doctor was sent for. 1900 05 12  
Harriet Few of Willingham was fined 5s. for driving a cart without a light at Longstanton. Defendant: I shall not pay; I'll go to gaol. I think it is rather hard for a woman to go to work all the week and be stopped by a policeman simply because she had no light attached to her cart. I am not willing to pay this money. I do not consider that I was doing wrong, and I will go to gaol. How long will it be?

1900 09 07 c

At Newmarket a widow lady of 70 years made overtures to the poor law authority in the direction of out-relief. The chairman, with an eye to the ratepayers' interests, suggested she should obtain a post as a housekeeper to someone. She pointed out that a woman of 70 was not likely to get a housekeeper's place. But the lady found a situation as a housekeeper, and has become the bride of her employer. This husband of her's is her third. It would be a rather extreme step to instruct relief officers to say to all single ladies of that age who apply for assistance 'get a situation and get married'. It is not easy to get situations for ladies of seventy; it is still less easy to get husbands for them.

1900 09 12

The little Suffolk town of Haverhill is one of the last places in which one would have expected a foul murder to be enacted; and yet it is from Haverhill that the tidings come of a tragedy as revolting in its hideousness as has taken place for many a day. A woman who recently gave birth to twins has been found lying dead, her throat cut, and in her arms the dead bodies of her two infants, their throats also cut. The circumstances point to the husband as the perpetrator of the vile deed. The police gave chase & within a short time ran the wretched man to earth. For the credit of our human nature we are ready to say that the perpetrator must have been out of his mind, but it would be unsafe to argue that because a crime is hideous that it was, therefore, the work of a maniac.

1900 11 12

P.S. Howlett told the court he had visited a house in Castle Street, Saffron Walden. He found two ounces of sugar, an ounce of dry crust of bread, five onions, scraps of raw meat and bone and two bushels of very small potatoes. The cottage was very dirty and the four children were very dirty also. There was an offensive small upstairs. The mother said her husband had given her only 4d and she

had purchased a loaf of bread and butter. He was addicted to drink and she had been begging about the town. The younger children were pallid and looked to be starving. He suggested to the woman she should take them to the Workhouse and offered her a ticket of admission.

1901

1901 01 01

A great sensation was caused at Baldock when it became known that a woman had committed suicide by jumping down a well. Her husband said he had awoken and thought he could detect something burning. As his wife was closest to the door she said she would go down. After being absent for about two minutes he became alarmed. He found the house was empty and the back door open and immediately heard a scream. He rushed outdoors and proceeded to the well. Finding the lid open he let down a lantern but could not see any trace of her. A well sinker was let down in a bucket & recovered the body.

1901 02 20

An Epson woman told the court she had entered service as upper housemaid to the Vicar of Wicken and the agreement was that she should receive £24 a year. She was turned out of her situation. No reason was given for sending her away. She was paid no wages and told she would have none. The Vicar said she had declined to do what was asked, which was to fetch coal. His Honour said that even if there was impudence, there must be a month's notice given & gave judgement for the plaintiff.

1901 07 10 c

The discovery of a complete outfit of women's clothing in a hedge on a lonely road at Meldreth remains enshrouded in mystery. A motor car, driven by a man who was alone, was seen to stop near the spot where the clothes were found. The car is a four-seater with a left-hand drive – a peculiarity of those of American manufacture. A woman of about 50 and of stout build was seen to alight from a bus at Orwell and noticed wandering aimlessly from one side of the road to the other. There are several deep pits full of water not far from the spot; these are to be dragged by the police.

1901 07 12

An 78 year-old man was summonsed for assaulting Hephzibah D. He had taken her a rose which she'd accepted & said: "If I give a woman a rose, I expect a kiss". He had said so to scores of women. (Laughter). She did not wish to kiss him, whereupon he said: "I don't want to kiss you; so it's of no consequence". He never laid a hand on her; he did not see her frothing at the mouth. Did they believe with an able-bodied young woman of under 30 years and a tottering old man that anything took place. No jury in England would convict. However he was fined 10s.

19001 09 07

Sir – some days ago I discovered that a strong young woman was required to attend to the laundry and do the scrubbing at a neighbouring workhouse. I became a candidate and enclose a copy of my application, which received scant courtesy. "Having passed a course at the Royal College of Music I could, when not employed in laundry work, amuse the inmates on the piano, violin, banjo or tambourine. I am adept at cycling and should be glad to teach the young or aged inmates to ride. I could also give the Guardians a lesson on the art of riding. I am tall and fairly good-looking and shall be glad to send my photograph if required" – Gladys Jones

1901 09 20

The Bishop of Ipswich conducted the formal opening of Hamond Lodge, near King's Lynn, as a Home for Inebriate Women. It will accommodate 33 patients on the voluntary principle and is conducted by the Church of England Temperance Society in the Diocese of Ely. A large number of sympathisers, chiefly ladies and clergy attended the dedication service and inspected the house together with the gardens and glass houses which promise much healthy employment for the patients.

1901 10 01

Magistrates heard that the parties were tenants of two out of five cottages built in a yard at Hundon, and there was a right to use a common bakehouse. There had been difficulty about fixing the time at which each of the tenants could use the bakehouse, which was also used for washing purposes. Complainant was always in the habit of arranging with the defendant when she wanted to bake but found the other woman had got the copper full and was washing. As she could not light the bakehouse fire when there was one in this stove she put a little water on it, and took the chimney away and put her bread in the oven. Defendant took the bread out, lit the fire again and boiled the water in the kettle. She then took hold of her round the waist and swung her out into the yard.

1901 11 25

The most militant of religious organisation had a field day at Cambridge on Sunday. Mrs Bramwell Booth, of the Salvation Army, addressed three large meetings at the Guildhall. "Fire a volley" was the command of a senior officer as Mrs Booth mounted the platform. A waving of handkerchiefs, a clapping of hands, a deep sound from the big drum, was the response. She is not a great woman speaker, but she has earnestness & spoke for nearly an hour. She is not sweet-throated but her manner impels one to listen.

1901 12 04

A Saffron Walden doctor was summonsed for not notifying the Medical Officer of Health that a woman and two children were suffering from an infectious disease. There had been a serious epidemic of scarlet fever and it was essential to stamp it out. The symptoms were a sore throat, sickness and a rash and if all were together an ordinary medical man would have no difficulty in diagnosing the case. But where they had not all these factors it was absolutely difficult to say whether it was scarlet fever or not.

1901 12 05

The Church Street Mission is quite distinct from the Cambridge Female Refuge but is auxiliary to it. Miss Elsden walks about the street at night and is able to persuade women who have gone astray to go with her to the Mission House and stay in safety for a few days until they can be received into the Refuge. Sometimes women come voluntarily and sometimes they are brought by the police. She also provides an escort for female prisoners on their discharge, meeting them at the prison and escorting them to the railway station, thus protecting them from evil influences in the town at the first moment of their freedom.

1902 0130 c

Cambridge Discharged Prisoners Aid Society heard that Cambridge prison has not been fully occupied by local prisoners during the past year but the Commissioner had sent down a number of military prisoners as well as others from London and other prisons. These transfer cases had added considerably to their work. They had investigated 186 cases, including 53 female. The Church Army Home in Fair Street & the Cambridge Female Mission had been most helpful. An Association of Lady Visitors had been established to adopt measures for setting up an honest life of those unfortunate women who come under the grip of criminal law, in whose case the attendant shame is always attended with peculiar difficulty

1902 07 29

A Cambridge man from Thoday Street, was charged with stealing two brooms and a pair of boots, the property of the Corporation. He worked as council yardman. A woman in Staffordshire Street said she had been living with the prisoner as his wife for the last four years. She saw him bring home brooms with "C.C." burnt in the top, which he filed off. He'd sold a pair of boots for 6s having told the buyer that the Corporation had provided him with them to go down the manholes and when he'd finished the surveyor said he might have them. He was sentenced to two month's imprisonment with hard labour.

1902 09 15

The mystery attaching to the discovery of a suit of khaki clothing on the river bank at Clayhithe has been solved in a remarkable manner. The person seen by four labourers is declared not to have been a

man at all, but a woman in disguise. When the khaki clothed individual carrying a brown paper parcel was lost sight of a woman appeared from the same direction. The theory is that the parcel contained not only a woman's attire but was further intended to be the means of removing property which was that night to be stolen from Norman Bradley's pawnbrokers premises in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge.

1902 10 01

A fire broke out in the women's ward at the top of the left wing of Addenbrooke's Hospital. In a very short time the flames secured a firm hold and the unfortunate patients had to be removed. Flames burst through the roof and worked towards the centre of the building. Nurses and probationers heroically entered the wards and brought their patients to a place of safety. Many scenes, tragically distressing, were witnessed. To such proportions did the fire assume that it was deemed advisable to remove other patients and several afflicted old men were brought to the lawn. The news of the outbreak spread quickly throughout Cambridge and some thousands of people gathered in front of the Hospital

1902 12 08

The Provost of Kings said that whatever good had been done by the University Spinning House it was of a very rough and ready kind. It succeeded in arresting women in a course of evil, and sending them to their homes, but one could not say much for the humanising and Christianising influence that was brought to bear upon the women there. In any town there was a probability of evil and if they added 3,000 young men in they hey-day of youth, many of them without fixed principles of right and wrong, and a number of young women coming from bad homes and bearing an hereditary disposition for evil there must be some danger. 1902 12 08

1903 02 04

The most famous wise woman in the fens lives in the town of Cambridge itself. On market days farmers and labourers and servants come to seek her advice, cross her hand with silver and go away with spells for love and marriage, for the cure of all kinds of ills and good luck in cattle-dealing. Another famous Wise Woman lives in a cottage in a village near Newmarket. She does a good business in spells and charms, from wart-curing to love philtres. She has cured thousands of warts by a process of rubbing the root of the dandelion plant on the hard skin to the accompaniment of some incantation gibberish. On stormy nights she is still fondly believed to go for midnight rides on a broomstick.

1903 02 07

A joint committee on the employment of barmaids has sent a resolution to the London magistrates asking them to recommend the employment of women in public bars shall be discontinued and no new employees be engaged. They believe the conditions of work are unsuitable for women and girls; it is quite customary for hours to range from fifteen to eighteen hours a day, seven to nine hours on Sundays. Thousands of women are employed in serving intoxicating liquors and find difficulty into settling into other occupations.

1903 04 28

Interest in the sensation known as the Moat Farm Mystery received a sudden stimulus by the announcement that the body of a woman, fully dressed, had been unearthed on the farm premises and identified as that of the missing woman. For the past two months it has been our duty to record the progress of the search which the police had been carrying out with such untiring diligence. Day after day they had pursued their labours, almost without remittance, and until yesterday they had been unrewarded by anything in the shape of human remains. It was decided to remove the mud from the moat and a lady's shoe was discovered containing a portion of a human foot.

1903 05 13

At Cambridge police court a married woman was charged with having stolen a piece of pork, value 1s.2d. from Joseph Butler, a butcher of Mill Street. He said he heard the shop bell ring and noticed the

pork was missing from the counter. He found it underneath her cloak. The magistrates had to convict, but in consideration of the fact that the prisoner had ten children she would be bound over.

1903 06 06

There is no doubt that the supply of lady housekeepers greatly exceeds the demand. The salaries asked are pitifully small – an undertaking to act as a good plain cook, to be musical and cheerful, for £20 a year, with board and lodging! A middle-aged woman is often preferred to a skittish young thing, but she must be comely and needs to have ‘a face for a rainy day’ and not a countenance on which the tragedy of failure in life is too strongly marked.

1903 08 04

Cambridge Borough has had its pride wounded by the London Express charging it with having incurable slums and possessing filthier homes than Whitechapel. In reply Mr Campkin, a Guardian said: “There is no doubt there is an amount of poverty and squalor in Cambridge but there has been a vast improvement in the St Matthew’s district over the last 40 years. There is evidence of the effects of drink in some parts of the town but in the Romsey and Petersfield district the residents are respectable working people”. Commenting on the Cambridge slums Dr Roper said: “I think even the very worst are fast becoming demolished; take St Peter’s Court, Castle Street, they are pulling that down. In consequence that there are large families in the poor quarters a woman very often has to go out and work as well as her husband to keep things going, and they can’t keep their houses quite so clean as they otherwise might. In New Street you will not see much dirt or dilapidation, though in summer time the people are sitting outside nearly half-dressed in consequence of the heat. But their homes are not so bad as you might imagine”.

1903 10 06

From certain events that occurred in Shamrock Passage, Newmarket Road, Cambridge recently it appears that the virtues of the flat-iron as an aid to argument continues to meet with dangerous recognition. One woman adopted this method of silencing her neighbour who was rendered insensible. Complainant: “She flew out of the house, shouted ‘You old ---, take that’. I went down and remember nothing afterwards. Defendant: “When I came home you was wonderful drunk … you kicked me and ‘busted my door open”

1904 01 16

The Old Bailey heard the case of an Ely lady, Florence R.; her first husband William had obtained a divorce nisi citing Henry F. as co-respondent, though it was never made absolute. But Florence married Henry, or at least went through a form of marriage, but as the first was not dissolved the second wedding was illegal and bigamous. Further complications followed. Henry went away to South Africa and she made the acquaintance of a man named B., whom she subsequently married. Her mother subsequently married William’s father in the belief he was dead. William thus occupies this bewildering position: His father is his father-in-law. His mother-in-law is his step-mother. His wife is his step-sister. Two other men have married his wife. Florence was sentenced to five day’s imprisonment

1904 03 09

Cambridge Women’s Temperance Association heard of the misery of a bright country girl desirous of obtaining employment in a South London gin palace. She had to be at the bar at nine in the morning and there stand in unutterable weariness until two o’clock the next morning, with two hours off for all her meals and rest. She could never get out into the fresh air except on her alternate Sundays. Inside the atmosphere was foul and the country flower sickened, the roses faded from her cheek; she needed a pick-me-up so much that she took the beer which was allowed three times a day and a glass of spirits at night. At last she became an inebriate and swelled the ranks of out-cast women. 1904 04 28

1904 04 28 c

The danger of wearing celluloid combs was revealed at an inquest. A young woman who wore her hair in a semi-circular comb was reading before the kitchen fire when suddenly her head became

enveloped in flames. The heat of the fire had ignited the ornament, a cheap French imitation of the tortoiseshell comb. The father produced a portion of it and on the coroner applying a match there shot up a long tongue of flame. The comb did not require fire to cause it to ignite – heat was sufficient.

1904 07 16

Shopkeepers are urged to ensure that their sun blinds are sufficiently high. Two well-dressed ladies were passing along the footpath of a certain Cambridge thoroughfare and were shielding themselves from the glare of the sun beneath a parasol, when suddenly the sunshade was dragged from the lady's hand, and came in contact with the other lady's hat, with the result that the head gear was torn with considerable force from its resting place and fell upon the pavement. The most unfortunate part of the whole affair was that not only the hat but the hair became enfastened and fell at the wearer's feet. The lady looked what most men would have said

1904 07 25

Two young ladies visited Cambridge as part of a tour in a coster's cart. Arriving at Ye Olde Castel Hotel they attracted a large crowd as much for their costume as their conveyance. They wore holland dresses, large sun hats, sandals and were without stockings. Needless to say the sight of such attire created astonishment among the hotel staff which increased when the travellers requested a bed for a donkey as well as themselves. Their departure next morning was attended by a great crowd who minutely examined the East End turn out, the cooking stove and the harness of the donkey which would not have been despised in the Old Kent Road

1904 07 29

Numbers of people who saw a lady at Coe Fen on Sunday evening with nothing on her head but a large quantity of woman's crowning glory, imagined her to be one of the enthusiastic hygienic faddists known as the hatless brigade. Her courageous defiance of custom aroused much admiration inspired by her profuse and glistening golden locks. The belief that the new custom of going hatless had found followers is however groundless. The prosaic explanation is that lady had left a boat, in which her headgear was, and walked along the Coe Fen path to the bridge to avoid passing through the bathing place.

1904 08 15

Mrs Sarah Ann Edwards told the Soham court that she had several occupations and besides being a midwife and a washerwoman, prepared dead bodies for burial. She purchased a pony and lent it to her husband who went to Fordham with it. He got very drunk and went to the Windmill where he made a bargain for the pony with William Harlock. It was taken from the cart and replaced by another one. This was a broken-down creature, only fit for the knacker's yard. When her husband got home she went in search of her own animal and found it in the Ely pig market. Harlock said he had bought it from her husband

1904 10 28

A London court was told that complainant's son had an infatuation for the defendant's daughter, a young actress now acting at Cambridge, and was engaged to be married to her. Her parents were not favourable to the match but the girl left their house and went to live with her intended husband's parents. Since then the young couple, both under age, had had the banns published in church but owing to the parents' objections the marriage was not proceeded with. However on hearing that the girl had been married her mother went to the house and demanded to see the 'marriage lines' before labouring the complainant about the head with her umbrella, breaking the weapon into two pieces

1904 11 12

At Divorce proceeding a Cambridge medical practitioner alleged his wife had been guilty of misconduct with a Worcestershire man. She counter-claimed on charges of cruelty and adultery, alleging that while practising he had been guilty of impropriety with lady patients. In the evidence will be strange stories of violent scenes at their residence, of the wife taking poison and so forth.

1904 11 23

The Cambridge Female Refuse is sorely in need of increased support for their accounts show a deficit of over £250. The amount realised by laundry work during the last six weeks was very much higher than for a considerable time past but they could not rely on a continuance of a large amount of washing and must get more subscribers. During the year nine girls had been admitted to the Home and eight sent out to service after the completion of their training. But for the first time in many years there were four cases to record of probable failure.

1904 11 26

The bedmaker is an institution. Without her the University would be sadly disorganised. Now The Granta has been conducting a bedmakers competition which Mrs Jacob of Magdalene has won. She was born in 1829 and has served the college for 62 years. Mrs Hills of St Johns has a record of continuous service since 1839 while Mrs Nichols has served 28 years at Corpus with 11 at Peterhouse before that. But several ladies entirely declined to take the contest seriously, one saying she had read in The Granta 'articles which no gentleman could possibly have written'

1904 11 29

Lincolnshire has long been a county noted for drug-taking. A chemist said that he had sold more opium and laudanum in four years at Spalding than during the previous twenty in other parts of the country. The habit had been handed down amongst the inhabitants for many generations. It was originally resorted to as a means of allaying pains resulting from ague but the present generation are not such slaves to the habit as their predecessors. More opium is sold at Peterborough than in any other town in England but it is not one-tenth of what it was 30 years ago. The sale is now mainly confined to villagers, especially women, and the evil appears to be gradually dying out

1904 12 10

Hamond Lodge Inebriates' Home at Terrington St Clements was opened in 1905 for inebriate women. It is a fine manor house surrounded by large gardens and the change which has been wrought in many of the poor women who come there amply proves that the venture was fully justified. There is a dark side too, for there are failures and sad ones. But we have a great anxiety. A great many patients come direct from the London police and their friends cannot guarantee the weekly charge. The Home is costly, there is dry rot in the floors and gardener's cottage, defective drainage and insufficient water supply. The result is a deficit which cannot be reduced without increased support

1905 02 14

Cambridge Women's Temperance Association have acquired the tenancy of an East Road property formerly known as the Barnwell Coffee Palace which they have transformed into 'The White Ribbon', a well-conducted temperance establishment at which palatable food and clean lodgings can be obtained at moderate prices. The position of the building in one of the poorer districts has led to some apprehension but care is to be taken to ensure that the frequenters of the establishment are somewhat more select than formerly. It is not intended for the tramp class but for young people who require lodgings. It contains 16 bedrooms with a tastefully-furnished sitting room 05 02 14a

1905 02 14

On Saturday a caravan containing two families of the Macedonian gypsies passed through Royston escorted by two constables, but some of the women managed to do some shopping. As their pony was obviously unfit for the hills on the Buntingford Road they camped for the night near Ashwell Station where a policeman kept supervision over them. They pretended to know little English beyond the words 'shilling' but suddenly developed a knowledge of English sufficient to bargain for hay. There were two families with nine children, unkempt and dirty. Mr Clark, an enterprising photographer, endeavoured to take a photograph but they declined to group themselves till they had received money. A tremendous number of post card pictures of the group have been sold. They are apparently one of the two vans which disappeared and were practically forgotten when the others were deported last week. 05 02 14

1905 03 13

Cambridge magistrates were told there were about 440 houses on the Rock Estate with one full-licensed house, the Rock Hotel and one off-licence. Either of these sent out beer to houses as ordered. There are also at least four brewers' vans to deliver beer in gallon jars and bottles, and grocers from Cambridge send up pint bottles. If they granted a new licence to William Conder of Marshall Road, which was a new and fairly populous district, it would lead to secret drinking, more especially by women at their homes. The licence was refused.

05 03 13a-c

1905 03 25

Those motherly ladies, the motherly nurses of our land – 'Sarah Gamps' as they have been designated – have rendered great service in assisting into the world the offspring of poor parents who cannot afford to pay for a doctor. But under the Midwives Act all such women must be qualified by training. However those who have carried out the trade are not swept away by one stroke of the pen. In many instances the village clergyman or doctor has paid the ten-shilling registration fee to allow the ladies to continue. 05 03 25

1905 04 29

Northumberland women lead healthy open-air lives and compare very favourably, both in morality and physique, with the factory hands. Without them it would not be possible to carry on agricultural labour because the rural exodus has diminished the available supply of men. Their pay is 1s.8d a day and 3s. a day for twenty days at harvest. This enables them to live in very great comfort as compared with the farm servants in the Eastern Counties where there are many men with families to keep who do not earn high wages 05 04 29a

1905 06 03

The revival of the use of the crinoline has long been heralded with ladies misguided enough to appear arrayed in the hideous appliance. With a feeling of dismay I report that it has now made an appearance in Cambridge. It cannot be said it was of the abnormal type that helped make women ridiculous in the sixties but it resembled them entirely in form. The wearer was a lady well known locally for the prominent part she takes in local political affairs. 05 06 03

1905 06 19

A sensational report in the London papers that 'the body a woman upon whose body a variety of curious tattoo designs was found was discovered in the river at Cambridge' actually refers to a tragedy at Chatteris a fortnight ago. Two women of the tramp class were pulled from the river. One had tattoos of the crucifixion on her chest, a soldier, sailor and flags on her right arm and a fully-rigged ship, English and American flags, the letter M and a woman in tights on her left. Her left leg had a representation of a Highlander playing bagpipes 05 06 19a

1905 07 08

Mr Prevett, the clever local Punch and Judy man was performing at a garden party near Cottenham and demonstrating the unhappy relations between Punch and his spouse with much vigour. At the conclusion of the show he was accosted by a lady who protested his manipulation of the dolls was too brutal and would have a demoralising effect on the poor innocent rustics. A short time after the lady married, and quite recently was fined for assaulting her husband with a garden rake! 05 07 08a # c.39

1905 08 29

The Rector of Coveney, Rev Charles Turner, has closed his church except during the hours for service because of the visits of hatless women. Sightseeing, archaeology and snap-shooting are subsidiary to worship and prayer; general conversation, giggling and general moral hatlessness are utterly unbecoming and out of place, he says. Some weeks ago a party of well-dressed girls wanted to have the keys of the church and on being asked if they wanted to say their prayers burst out laughing. 05 08 29e

1905 11 18

Complaints have been received of the methods of certain travelling traders. A packman knocks at the door and announces himself as the representative of a large London firm who 'finding themselves overstocked' are selling out at under cost price. He exhibits a sample of towels and quotes a ridiculously low price for them. Madame does not need to pay until they are delivered. Meanwhile he shows some extraordinary cheap dress material and persuades her to buy and pay on the spot. Then she waits patiently for the delivery of the very cheap articles held out as bait. She waits in vain and finds she has paid fourpence a yard more for her dress material than in the shops. 05 11 18b # c.27 #

1905 11 30

Two young women were charged with frequenting the streets of Cambridge for the purpose of prostitution. One explained she was a native of Dundee, living at a common lodging house; she had been a domestic servant at Newmarket but had to leave on account of illness. Being destitute she was obliged to 'go on the streets' for a living. 05 11 30a

1905 12 27

On the eve of Christmas merrymaking a gloom was cast over the little village of Kirtling by a tragedy. A shot was heard in the vicinity of a cottage and subsequently a seven-year-old girl startled some relatives by running into their house saying, 'Mother is dead. Father has shot her'. Not caring to investigate the matter themselves they sent for the village constable, who was out. In the evening he proceeded to the cottage where he found a woman's body lying in a pool of blood with a shot wound to the head. Her husband was sitting nearby nursing the youngest child, a baby. 05 12 27a 1906 01 31 Saffron Walden Guardians were told the women from Romford in the Workhouse had asked for more sugar and tea, and also snuff. The men had an ounce of tobacco each week, which is what they had at Romford. But Walden inmates had only half that amount. All inmates ought to be treated the same 06 01 31b

1906 07 19

Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association held a well-attended meeting in the grounds of The Lodge, Mill Road when addresses were given by Miss Isabella Ford, a prominent suffragist, Mrs Rackham and other local ladies. Women could be guardians or medical officers but could not vote for a representative in Parliament. The grounds, which present a beautiful appearance, proved an ideal venue. 06 07 19

1906 08 23

A woman of about 30 years of age journeyed to Cambridge to meet the man who was the author of her 'trouble'. While she was in the train alone the child was born but on arrival at the station she behaved with such extraordinary circumspection that none of the railway officials suspected anything unusual had occurred. Carrying a bundle wrapped in underlinen under her arm, this extraordinary woman walked the length of the platform, hailed a cab and asked to be driven to the Workhouse. There her strength gave way and she swooned on the floor with the new-born babe beside her. They are both doing well. 06 08 23

1906 09 13

Ely Coroner held an inquest at the residence of Mr Hanslip Long, Shippea Hill into the death of a widow who was knocked down and killed at Shippea Crossing. She had been to the Fish and Duck where she paid for her husband's harvest beer. On returning she saw the train but started to go over the crossing at a tidy stroke and was hit. It was getting dark and they had to strike three matches before they could recognise the body. She was a strong-minded woman and it was difficult to persuade that class of people to do what other people wanted. 06 09 13a

1906 11 06

A large number of supporters of Women's Suffrage met at the Victoria Assembly Rooms, Cambridge, to hear an address by Mrs Henry Fawcett. Dr A. North Whitehead presided and was supported by Miss Kennedy, Mrs Heitland, Mrs James Ward, Mrs Rackham and Dr Westlake, Professor of

International Law. Mrs Fawcett said ladies had lobbied the Prime Minister then jumped on the forms, made speeches and waved their flags. They were carried outside by police and as they came out a young factory worker who said 'Votes for Women' was immediately arrested and sent to prison. 06 11 06d & e & g

1906 11 24

Bigamy – Downing undergraduate – 06 11 24c

1906 12 20

Ely coroner held an inquest on the death of an 79-year-old Sutton woman. For several years she was in the habit of taking laudanum; she fetched twopennyworth at a time, twice a week. That was enough to destroy life, but her daughter never saw her take it. She took beer at her meal times and rum when she was ill. The doctor refused to issue a death certificate as the body had been laid out before he saw it and certain signs had been wiped away. 06 12 20

1907 01 15

An inquest into the death of a male child of a single woman in a village near Linton heard she'd been attended by her mother, a midwife, who said that after the child was born it had moaned but did not cry, she did not slap it nor wash it. It was the fifth illegitimate child her daughter had had. Three of them were still alive, one was an idiot who'd fell on the fire a month ago. Another had been born dead. Dr W.M. Palmer said he'd found the child in a dirty cloth or flannel petticoat. If properly attended at birth it would have stood a good chance of living. 07 01 15a

1907 01 15

When Parliament re-assembles there will be a stupendous effort on behalf of the enfranchisement of women. A canvass is being organised in Cambridge which already includes the heads and staffs of Newnham and Girton Colleges and the Secondary Training Colleges for Women. Small informal drawing-room meetings are being held and addresses on suffrage given to meetings of the Women's Liberal Association and the Co-operative Women's Guild. 07 01 15b

1907 01 16

A Fenstanton woman said an Over farmer had gone into the Dolphin, St Ives and alleged an improper connection between herself and a man who was a friend of the family who been in the habit of visiting her home. What made it worse was that she was within a week of her confinement and had not previously had a child for ten years. Now people she met in the street would not look at her. Defendant claimed it was a joke but the words had been uttered angrily with his face thrust into the face of her husband. Five of the jury were in favour of £6 damages and five in favour of one farthing. 07 01 16 a & b

1907 01 17

Women's suffrage – meeting at Royston – 07 01 17b

1907 02 15

Suffrage meeting, Cambridge – 07 02 15

1907 02 16

Unusual scenes were witnessed at a meeting called at Burwell to discuss the Poor Fens Charity. The schoolroom was crowded with about 400 people, many others stood outside. But Mr R. Stephenson said that as it was a parish meeting non-electors and women must leave the room. They refused. After nearly two hours the meeting was abandoned in disorder and the altercation continued in the street. 07 02 16 & a

1907 03 18

A movement is on foot amongst English Roman Catholics to establish a college for women, on the lines of Girton or Newnham, at the University. The leader is Miss Eleanor Warner who recently

visited the Catholic Convent in Bateman Street. She is now in Rome for a meeting with the Pope. Opinion is strongly favourable and that Cambridge may soon see an addition to her institutions. 07 03 18a

1907 05 14

A Women's Suffrage meeting heard that even in Cambridge there were many signs of women's desire for the vote; once they only had one meeting a year, now they were continually having them. Bertrand Russell was contesting Wimbledon in the interests of the movement. They might be proud that the first man to do this was a Cambridge man, and a man of such intellectual distinction. 07 05 14c

1907 06 11

Some disappointment has been occasioned by the moderate success of women mathematicians this year. Only ten sat for the Tripos and Miss Eva Smith of Newnham is the only wrangler. The highest position ever attained by a woman was in 1890 when Miss Fawcett, daughter of the former blind Postmaster-General, was placed above the Senior Wrangler – G.T. Bennett, Fellow of Emmanuel College. 07 06 11

1907 07 09

Cambridge Association for Women's Suffrage organised a meeting at Cambridge Guildhall with a series of admirably-delivered speeches by Mrs Fawcett, the Hon Bertrand Russell and others, supported by 80 delegates from across the country. It was said that men had all the logic and women sweetness and morality. But men could not be expected to know everything that women required. Young women should throw themselves with all the ardour and power they could command on this, one of the very great questions of the world. 07 07 09

1907 07 20

A matrimonial epidemic is raging among the lady school teachers and shop assistants of Cambridge. No fewer than three are leaving New Street School to assume marital responsibilities. Mr Sturton said that marriage was the crowning point of a woman's life and also her duty. He hoped other teachers would follow their example, but do it one at a time in future. 07 07 20

1907 10 21

An interesting wedding took place at St Luke's Church when the Master of St John's College, Rev Charles Taylor, (67), was married to Miss Margaret Dillon. Dr Taylor is a noted Hebrew scholar, theologian and mathematician who was Vice Chancellor of the University in 1887. Miss Dillon supports the Factory Girls' Holiday Fund and is a prominent member of the Women's Total Abstinence Union. 07 10 21

1907 12 14

Suffragettes, unable to gain admission to the Guildhall, held a meeting outside in the rain. Two ladies from the Women's Social and Political Union picketed the entrance, distributing leaflets. Then they climbed on a market stall and addressed the crowd. To the credit of Cambridge the ladies were accorded a very fair hearing, but when Mr Keeling of Trinity mounted the platform there was such an uproar that, though his mouth was seen to be moving, not a word could be heard. Later they were surrounded by such a crowd that the police escorted them to a four-wheeler which drove off. - 07 12 14 & a

1907 12 14

Whatever the detractors say about the 'unsexed suffragette', the little band of "pesterers" who visited Cambridge last night amply vindicated their femininity. Mr Haldane, the War Minister's last memories of our town will not be the ringing cheers of his supporters but the shaken fists of the suffragettes as they shouted 'Votes for Women'. As his car glided out of Downing Street there was a flutter of petticoats and a liberal display of shapely ankles and the suffragettes were at the windows, shouting their battle cries. - 07 12 14d

1908 02 07

Linton magistrates heard of a disorder at Chequers, Shudy Camps where some furniture had been removed from the pub and carted away next day. The landlord, who was a single man, had introduced as his housekeeper an unsuitable young single women. This gave rise to some family difference. There had been frequent quarrels between the landlord and landlady at the Cross Keys, Sawston and the landlord of the Bell at Balsham had not prevented excessive drinking. 08 02 07g

1908 04 14

Three women were summoned for hanging clothes on a line stretched across the street at Blackmoorhead Yard, Bridge Street. Edward Hopkins, livery stables proprietor, said the Yard was not a thoroughfare, having no outlet, but it led to stables. The lines were hung right across so anybody driving could not get down. Elizabeth Burton and Ellen Clark pleaded guilty, but Sarah Collingwood said she did not obstruct the yard. If they did it again they would be arrested. 08 04 14

1908 05 04

Mrs Briggs' First-class registry office, Regent Street, Cambridge, has all classes of superior, reliable town and country servants. Ladies requiring to be quickly and well suited should apply now. Includes: Cook-General, tall, superior country girl, good worker, 2½ years reference; £16. House-parlourmaid, tall, superior country servant, carve, valet, good waitress and needlewoman, £21. Twenty young country servants, requiring first situations as nurses, housemaids, generals, between maids and kitchen maids, small wages, to be trained. – advert. 08 05 04

1908 06 19

The greatest demonstration that woman has yet made of her desire for the suffrage was the gigantic procession through the streets of London to the Albert Hall. Ten thousand strong, it comprised almost every class: lady doctors marched with factory girls, famous lady novelists and domestic servants. Cambridge played an active part: about 130 ladies joined in, including Mrs Heitland, Mrs Ward and Mrs Rackham bearing a splendid blue silk banner with in gold lettering 'Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association, founded 1883'. At the Albert Hall both Newnham and Girton colleges took a box, many ladies attired in academic dress. 08 06 19 p2 08 06 19 p2

1908 08 21

Members of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association, including Mrs Rackham, Mrs Dutt and Mrs Ramsey, visited Whittlesford and Fulbourn canvassing women during the afternoon and arranging an open-air meeting on the green at which the wives bring their husbands. There had been a certain amount of difference of opinion but people have been most friendly and willing to listen. CWN 08 08 21 p3

1908 08 22

A wise woman living in a village near Newmarket does a good business in spells and charms, from wart curing to love philtres. She has cured thousands of warts by rubbing the root of a dandelion on the hard skin to the accompaniment of some incantation gibberish. On stormy nights she is still fondly believed by many people to go for midnight rides on a broomstick – or so claims a London paper hard up for copy during the silly season. CWN 08 08 22 p5

1908 08 29

George Hutt has been the respected headmaster of Trumpington National School for the last 44 years. It was not for want of energy that he is leaving but the wisdom of the Government in compelling him to give up his post at the age of 65. He would not advise teaching as a vocation for men but felt sure there was a future for women as educational instructors. CWN 08 08 29 p5

1908 09 11

In Cambridge the University vacations continually throw many boys and men out of work and create a class of idle and useless men who live on their wives' earnings when they can, and at other times are

destitute. Many women work as bedmakers but others can neither cook nor keep their houses tidy. Improvident early marriages between young men and women who have no savings to furnish a house, no experience to teach them economy and no solid mutual affection to help them bear hardship are the source of great and prolonged misery. CWN 08 09 11 p2

1908 10 09

As soon as dusk fell, the heavy gates of the Cambridge Workhouse opened upon the first of a tattered regiment of out-of-works, willing-to-works and never-will-works who demanded hospitality. Reports from all local unions show an abnormal leap in the number of vagrants who are seeking the shelter of the casual wards due to unemployment consequent on trade depression. The first were a pair of women, one pale and gaunt, one rotund and healthful. They are a washerwoman and a charwoman from Lancashire; neither has yet found work and they are returning to the North. CWN 08 10 09 p2

1908 10 30

Women on town councils discussion – CWN 08 10 30

1908 11 13

The women candidates for Cambridge borough councillors have quickened interest in the recent elections. All though the day rumours of the arrival of the Pankhurst brigade were flying about with speculation that 50 militant females had arrived from London, but nobody saw any suffragettes. The crowd expressed their pleasure in cheers when it was announced that both the lady candidates, Miss Kennedy who stood in New Town and Miss Philpott who stood in Petersfield, had been defeated. A band of militant ladies disrupted a meeting attended by a Cabinet Minister in Cambridge Guildhall when they informed him and an unsympathetic audience that they wanted votes. It was known that members of the warlike organisation of women had arrived, but which of the many well-dressed women present were they? It soon became clear when a slight form crowned by a 'Merry Widow' hat rose from her seat and vomited words like a Gatling gun. They caused a disturbance and a few had the pleasure of being ejected with more or less violence. CWN 08 11 13

1908 11 21

A young married woman lies in Cambridge gaol accused of wilful murder. In the tiny parlour of a typical country cottage is the dead body of her year-and-four-month old baby, a bonny dark-eyed plumped-cheek babe, drowned in the filth of a cesspool. Upon a little bed in another room lies another little girl slowly recovering from the effects of immersion in the same cesspool. Too young to realise the terrible experience she has been through she murmurs "Mummy did it; she said it was best". CWN 08 11 21 p8

1909 02 19

The meeting organised by the Anti Female Suffrage League in the Guildhall was crowded with many undergraduates who regarded the whole question as a humorous diversion. Speakers were constantly disrupted except from the one lady who was not subjected to a single interruption. Whilst conceding the importance of Women's work in national life it would be dangerous to allow a vote to people lacking the average political knowledge and experience open to men. 09 02 19

1909 03 05

An inquest was held into the death of a domestic servant at a private residence in Grantchester Meadows. She had been standing in front of the fire in a newly-starched dress when it burst into flames. Her employer, a private tutor, wrapped her in a rug and telephoned for the doctor but she was extensively burnt and despite the services of two trained nurses the woman died. 09 03 05

1904 04 02

Newmarket Guardians discussed the case of an elderly lady at Snailwell, a hardy old woman who was one of the few people who could still make a smock frock. She had supported her husband who'd been seized with senile dementia and became a great trouble. His illness had 'knocked the old woman sideways'. But after he'd died she had received no pension: it was claimed she had received relief

when looking after him and so was not liable. There were similar cases elsewhere that should be investigated. 09 04 02

1909 05 07

A number of undergraduates played havoc with the meeting of the Cambridge Association for Women's Suffrage. The Corn Exchange has a seating capacity of about 1,500 but by utilising the farmers' desks and standing in every available space, an audience of 2,000 listened to – or interrupted – the arguments. Quite 80 per cent of the meeting was composed of women, of whom Newnham and Girton contributed a considerable quota. But it was the minority whose increasingly violent disruptions caused the meeting to break up in a disorderly manner, though not before the resolutions had been carried by a large majority. 09 05 07

1909 05 14

A fire does not occur every day in Linton and when it does it received a pretty cool reception. Monday is washing day and a number of women with arms bared to the elbow rushed from washing tubs, snatched up a pail and joined in the work of quenching the ardour of the leaping flames. With only a handkerchief over their heads they rushed through the smoke, defying flying fragments of fire and threw water at any fresh point where flame appeared. The majority of men were away at work but a crowd of the type generally to be found propping up the walls of a public house collected and gazed on the fire with the glazed eyes of the habitual loafer. 09 05 14

1909 05 14

Two spinsters, aged 50 and 30, appeared in court charged with stealing carnations value sixpence from a grave in Mill Road cemetery. The custodian said he saw them take the flowers from the side of the grave of Trooper Truscott; he took the ladies to his house, locked the door and sent for a policeman. They were respectable Sunday school teachers who had known the deceased well and picked up flowers that had dropped from a wreath to take home and press in remembrance of him. The custodian was legally correct but for him to lock them up, send for a policeman and cart them through the streets to the police station was very regrettable. 09 05 14

1909 05 28

Mrs J. Wilson was born nearly 100 years ago at Hildersham where her father was schoolmaster. Books were very dear and it was a great event in a scholar's life to have one to write in. There were no steel pens, quills costing a penny each being used. She remembers church services at Babraham where there was a barrel organ worked by a village blacksmith, men and women sat on different sides and while singing turned round and faced the west gallery. 09 05 28

1909 12 10

While a young woman was busily engaged at the back of her house in High Street, Willingham, she heard an ominous sound as if the roof was giving way. She rushed into the open, just managing to get out of the door when the roof and walls collapsed. Fortunately, though frightened, she sustained no injury, but had she been a moment later she must have been seriously hurt. CWN 09 12 10

1910 01 07

The Cambridge branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies works on constitutional lines, using only lawful and orderly methods. Its meeting in the Romsey Council School was a decided success: the speeches were listed to by a crowded audience most attentively, although there were some interruptions and cat-calling from the back of the building. Mrs C.D. Rackham urged the candidates at the forthcoming General Election to support votes for women on the same terms as men. CWN 10 01 07c

1910 01 14

To have filled the large hall at the Guildhall to the very doors and held the attention of a crowded audience for nearly two hours would have been a great score for the Cambridge Union of Women's Suffrage Societies at any time. But to have done so when both political parties are working at high

pressure and three big political meetings were being held the same night, was a veritable triumph. Nobody who listed to the clear, forcible, eloquent speeches of the ladies could fail to have been impressed, the few interruptions from the back of the hall being of a very mild and harmless character. But few of those present backed a call for women to have the same right to vote as men. CWN 10 01 14e

1910 03 11

A party of five undergraduates attempted to repeat the 'Merry Widow' hoax at the New Theatre but were sadly unsuccessful. It is a well-known rule that undergraduates may not purchase boxes unless accompanied by ladies or some elderly chaperone. A box was ordered in the name of the Hon Miss Neville of Magdalene College, which aroused suspicion. The party comprised three undergraduates and two 'ladies' who were very tall, walked with manly strides and spoke in a quaint high-pitched falsetto. Mr Redfern did not take many seconds to spot the disguise. 10 03 11f

1910 01 07

Votes for women – suffrage meeting – 10 01 07b & c, 10 01 14b & c, campaign in Cambridge – 10 01 14d

1910 02 04

The polling of the four Cambridgeshire constituencies shows how remarkably evenly balanced are the two great parties: 19,232 being given to the Liberals and 19,233 to the Conservatives – a majority of one! As the county returned members of each colour Cambridgeshire can fairly claim to have secured proportional representation. This curious fact was pointed out by a young schoolgirl who discovered it quite by herself. I have never been an advocate of women's suffrage but think she is much more deserving of a vote than many men I know. Probably by the time she is of age, votes for women will be an accomplished fact. CWN 10 02 04c

1910 02 18

A distressing scene was witnessed at the funeral of a young woman who died at Elm after giving birth to a child. A portion of the service was omitted at the graveside and the mourners hooted the clergyman. When the grave had been filled up he ordered the removal of certain artificial wreaths in glass cases and took them into his own house. If the parents will give a guarantee that no attempts will be made to place them on the grave he will hand them over. 10 02 18b

1910 02 25

The heroine of the recent male impersonation escapade at Fen Ditton sat quietly in the stuffy little court room packed with pressmen and spectators. No one would imagine from her appearance that she was the sort of girl to wander about churchyards in the brother's clothes in the middle of the night or smash church windows. In her white blouse and her wealth of black hair tied back with a bow she presented a far different appearance from the dishevelled but picturesque boy seen at the police office the morning after her adventure. CWN 10 02 25 c & d

1910 03 04

Cherry Hinton was the most rapidly-increasing district in the neighbourhood. It was popularly believed that the dwellers in St John's parish were all well-to-do and able to supply their needs themselves, but that was quite a fallacy, said the rector. There were a very large proportion of artisans and some who were very poor. One woman, whose husband was in the Asylum, had to work at a laundry to keep herself and three children on nine shillings a week. CWN 10 03 04g

1910 03 11

A stable in Water Street, Old Chesterton, was the scene of a shocking tragedy. A 50-year-old labourer had been living with a 58 year-old woman who earned her living by travelling about the county with a caravan in the summer, visiting fairs, and in the winter time she hawked coal and coke about local villages. When he appeared in court his complexion stamped him at once as a man used to working in the open air. His face and neck were alike brick red in colour and seamed with thousands of wrinkles,

the black hair was cut fairly short, but the grizzled moustache was rather ragged. He was dressed in corduroys and heavy boots. He had no collar or neck wrap and his vivid red shirt showed at the top of the sleeved waistcoat he was wearing. 10 03 11a & b

1910 04 29

A decently-dressed woman called at a Willingham baker's shop and inquired about some respectable lodgings. She was recommended to apply at Mrs W. Ellwood's in Newtown. Thither she went and was provided with supper of bread and cheese before retiring to bed. Next morning Mrs Ellwood set out breakfast and then left to draw her old-age pension. On return she found the woman had had breakfast, washed up and put away the cups and saucers and then disappeared. Nothing was disturbed in the house. The police have been informed but can find no trace of the guest. 10 04 29

1910 05 06

Under the new Midwives Act no woman can habitually attend women in childbirth unless she is certified. There were 54 midwives on the register of whom 30 were trained. Ten of the untrained women were between the ages of 65-75 and might need replacing before long by reason of death or infirmity. There was only one trained midwife at Willingham and an untrained woman at Landbeach. There were none at Isleham, Burwell, Wicken, Upware, Milton, Cottenham, Swavesey or Histon. Some mothers can afford the fee of a medical practitioner but are unable also to pay the full fee of a skilled nurse and so may turn to unregistered women 10 05 06b & c

1910 05 27

An old woman named Mrs Dunn who had been living in a very dilapidated cottage at the Grip, Linton died aged 94. After the funeral the will was read which contained bequests to the value of £400! The house was in a filthy condition and to avoid jealousy the various bundles of rags were sold by Dutch auction. Coal, firewood, dresses and all sorts of odds and ends were disposed of including two pairs of corsets which were bought for twopence by Jenny Fordham of Hadstock. When she got home she found ten sovereigns wrapped up in them. 10 05 27a

1910 06 03

Mrs Pankhurst made her first acquaintance with the undergraduate at a meeting organised by the Cambridge University Men's League for Women's Suffrage at the Guildhall. She is used to lively meetings but usually there is some point to the interruptions to which she is subjected. This time the undergraduate section of the audience had come fully determined to turn the meeting into a sort of variety entertainment for their own delectation, and in this they succeeded. She stuck to her guns during her address which lasted, counting the interruptions, for about 70 minutes and then invited questions. About 9.30 a Proctor arrived and one man was led out of the hall, amidst much groaning. 10 06 03f & g

1910 08 12

A tragedy was narrowly averted at Wentworth by the prompt action of a villager. Jonas Whetstone heard a noise in a well by the roadside and on looking in was surprised to find a young woman clinging desperately to the brick sides of the well and in imminent peril of drowning. It was no easy matter from him to effect her escape but he succeeded in doing so. She had come over to the village from Haddenham to see her lover but he had refused to speak to her. This rebuff proved too much for the girl who, losing all control, jumped into the well. When rescued she was handed over to police and appeared in court charged with attempting to commit suicide. 10 08 12a

1910 08 21

Mr Bentick, shoemaker of Palace Street, Newmarket, was cycling near Fordham when his attention was attracted by the cries of a woman in a ditch. He questioned a man who said he had only known her a couple of days and they had tramped from Ely that morning. He added that she was ill and did not know what was the matter. Mr Bentick, who is the father of a family, grasped the situation immediately and rendered such assistance as he could until a couple of nurses arrived from the

Infectious Hospital close by. Then the woman and her new-born child were conveyed to Newmarket Infirmary. 10 08 21k

1910 08 12

A poor widow woman at Boxworth End Swavesey lost her weekly little bit of meat in a mysterious way. Some distance from her cottage she met the butcher's lad and told him to put it in an empty milk pan outside her back door and to cover it with an inverted plate so no four-legged marauder could get it. But on her return she found no meat and the ticket had also disappeared. Pieces of bacon and other items of food have previously been missed from the same receptacle. 10 08 12h

1910 08 26

Ely has opened the first women's Conservative Club in the provinces. The building off Silver Street was previously used as a hospital by the Ely Militia with a reading room and excellent bathroom. A large room will be utilised for balls and general meetings. A fete in the grounds of Egremont House featured a display of trophies including a black bear shot in the Himalayas by Mrs Luddington. In the evening Ely City Band played music for dancing on the lawn 10 08 26c

1910 09 23

Painful scenes were witnessed at Little Downham during an open-air baptism in the Pit pond in Cannon Street. This is a shallow pond chiefly used for watering horses and washing carts. The Minister, who had a pair of waders reaching over the knees, was immersing a woman when her husband suddenly arrived and endeavoured to prevent the ceremony being performed. He walked into the water and great consternation prevailed among the members of the Baptist community present until he was restrained by the village policeman. Afterwards there was an angry scene as he upbraided his wife for acting so, against his wishes. The affair was witnessed by a large crowd and still remains almost the sole topic of conversation. 10 09 23h

1910 10 07

An extensive stack fire broke out on the premises of Messrs Pearson Bros, the well-known horse breeders at Mepal. Most of the men were working on the land but the women, greatly to their credit, proved equal to the occasion. Leaving their homes, they hurried to the fire equipped with pails and anything else that might answer the purpose. So hard did the women work that the wells were soon dried up and the river at Mepal Bridge was resorted to, several neighbours lending their water carts to fetch supplies. Stock including three valuable stud horses and 23 calves were rescue from the blazing stables. 10 10 07g

1910 11 04

Advocates of votes for women made their first platform appearance at Gamlingay, a crowded meeting being held in the Boys' Council Schoolroom. Mrs Rackham from Cambridge said she did not believe in the actions of the militant suffragettes. They were not asking for women to go to Parliament but women were taxed like the men and ought to vote like them. However Mrs Stanley of Merton Grange thought it would be terrible thing if in future England were governed by women. (Applause). It would mean 'petticoat government' and they did not want that. (Applause). The majority of ladies did not want the franchise and 400,000 of them had petitioned against 'votes for women'. The meeting rejected the idea. 10 11 04b

1911 04 07

Cambridge advocates of women's suffrage decided to protest against legislation without representation. A number of people of well-known name and position in the University and town spent the night at the houses of suffragists who had decided to defy the Census and not fill in their papers. One of these was Mrs Vulliamy of Maitland House, Barton Road who is on the Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League. She wrote across her paper 'No vote, no Census' and entertained a house full of ladies. 11 04 07a

1911 03 31

Two nursemaids appeared in court for walking side by side with perambulators. Several people had to get off the pavement or stand up against the wall on account of the obstruction caused. But one said "My Mistress, Lady Donaldson of Magdalene Lodge, told me to take no notice of the police as they could do nothing in the matter, and I shan't either. It's a pity you haven't got something better to do". Where were they to be wheeled: children must go somewhere and the path was the only safe place. They had not stopped to look in shop windows and nobody had complained. They were found guilty but no penalty was inflicted 11 03 31c

1911 04 28

An Inspector's report on Cambridge Workhouse criticised arrangements in the sick ward, the dietary, bathing arrangements and care of children. The sick ward contained 25 male and 28 females with only one partially trained nurse and a woman who came in to sit up at night. The majority of the bed-ridden cases were helpless and a great deal of the actual nursing was done by paupers. There were no modern conveniences and the female side top floor had only a drinking water tap fixed over a basin. A new midwifery ward had been erected with no sink or hot and cold water 11 04 28e

1911 08 18

Is smoking amongst ladies on the increase? At a leading Cambridge hotel the smoking room was filled with a dozen lady diners. After glancing round a smartly-dressed woman produced a cigarette case and handed it to her two female companions. Did the other ladies in the room look indignant? Not a bid of it. On the contrary, they looked intensely relieved and immediately proceeded to follow suit. The most significant feature was that most of the fair smokers possessed their own cases and smoking materials 11 08 18f

1911 08 18

Mr Stearn of the Railway Tavern, Longstanton, went rat-catching the other day and having killed several he retired indoors. A little later he felt something moving in his clothing in the region of his waist and to his dismay a full-sized rat ran out of the leg of his trousers. The rat raced round the house frightening the womenkind out of their wits before it was killed 11 08 18j

1911 11 03

Two unusual events occurred at Oakington. Several women had obtained employment in a neighbouring village gathering potatoes, but on Tuesday decided to strike for more wages. As they could not come to terms, they left the work and returned home. Much excitement was caused on Wednesday afternoon by the sight of an aeroplane flying over Oakington. This is the first one that has passed over this village. Many of the inhabitants had a good view of it 11 11 03f

1912 01 05

A distressing case came before magistrates at Newmarket court. Police were called to Dyson's lodging house where a woman had been told to leave because of her unpleasantness to other lodgers. She had taken her five children into the street where rain was falling in torrents. Police had suggested they go to the Union, out of the wet, but she'd refused, saying "Before I go there I will cut the throats of the lot of them". She was very excitable and had been drinking. They took her to the police station and the children were sent to the workhouse. The woman told the court that her husband had no regular work for two years. They had been turned out of a house in Cambridge as she could not pay the rent. A man had given her sixpence and they'd come by train to Newmarket 12 01 05h

1912 01 26

Dr Waldstein of Newton Hall says Cambridge is a place where there should be some industry where people who are often idle might be employed. There are women who work - bedmakers for instance - who have husbands who do not. Some years ago he tried a scheme for wood carving but it fell through and the local clay is not right for pottery. Now he proposed the establishment of a heraldic

bureau to become a centre of inquiries from architects and provide private individuals with authoritative information on family coats of arms. 12 01 26f &g

1912 03 08

University lodging-house keepers have been venting their grievances. One woman has three sets of rooms; if she lets them all the year she gets £84. For rent, rates, taxes and wages of servant she pays £53; that leaves her £31 for whitewashing, papering, staircloth, carpet etc and for food and clothes for herself. But this term all the rooms are empty. However in Chesterton there are many householders who let rooms to undergraduates; when they come part of Cambridge will the rateable values of their houses be increased? Lodging housekeepers should form themselves into a trades union. 12 03 08f

1912 03 15

A Cambridge branch of the National Union of Women Workers would bring together the existing 60 societies. By uniting women of various religious and political opinions a higher standard of work in municipal, educational and philanthropic matters would be reached. It grew from the work of Miss Ellis Hopkins who formed the Care of Young Girls Societies 12 03 15 & a

1912 05 10

Miss Mary Elizabeth Hargood of The Tiled House, Panton Street took an interest in various movements on behalf of women and was a great educationalist, being one of the first members of the Borough Education Committee. She was a founder of the Order of United Sisters Insurance Society, instilling into women principles of thriftiness. She also supported the Association for the Care of Girls and the Charity Organisation Society and was an ardent supporter of the women's suffrage movement. Her death will be deeply deplored by all 12 05 10 & a

1912 05 10

Isleham High Street Baptist Church celebrated its centenary when a thousand people gathered in a marquee in a meadow in the centre of the village. A sensation was caused when the pastor, Rev S.B. Newling, kissed the Rev John Clifford to thank him for being present. Dr Clifford said he did not know what his wife would say. He had made it a rule through his ministerial life never to kiss anybody over 13 except his wife and daughters. He had sent Mr Newling into the ministry; he'd also sent two women and felt that when the women got into the pulpit the men would have a bad time. He was glad he would not have to compete when the women came along. 12 05 10b & c

1912 07 12

Women's suffrage meeting, Market Hill – 12 07 12g

1912 07 12

Waterbeach women's suffrage meeting – 12 07 12m

1912 08 02

Whether one is in favour of militancy or not, the courage of those ladies who use it as a means for gaining the vote for women cannot be denied. Two ladies stood on Market Hill on Friday evening and faced the jeers and derision of a gang of rowdy youths who did all they could to make the meeting a farce. Popular songs formed the favourite medium employed for drowning the voices of the speakers and the confusion was heightened by the use of cycle bells and whistles. But Miss Roff and Miss Kate Jarvis persisted and managed to make their arguments audible 12 08 02a

1912 08 02

When the Women's Suffrage Association held open-air meetings at Abington and Linton numbers attending were noticeably large in proportion to the size of the village and a good many have their names as 'friends of Women's Suffrage'. At St Ives a meeting was held on the Market Place where about 300 listened with sympathetic attention to Miss H. Frazer, a well-known speaker for the cause who has come to help in Suffrage propaganda. She also addressed a similar meeting at Huntingdon

where a large and orderly crowd of men showed deep interest and a resolution in favour of women's suffrage was passed without a single dissentient 12 08 02 c d

1912 08 16

A meeting of the Women's Social and Political Union was being held and soon after Miss Kathleen Jarvis began her speech the bells of Great St Mary's struck up a deafening peal. The fair speaker's voice, pleasing but not powerful, was almost completely lost and it was only by her gesticulations that the crowd could see she was still expounding her principles. For something like an hour the unequal contest was maintained. And Miss Jarvis was the winner. A woman who had earned three periods of imprisonment was not to be daunted and was still pouring out a stream of argumentative bullets when the ringers retired - 12 08 16aa & b

1912 08 16

An open air meeting was held at Swavesey in the cause of women's suffrage. The gathering should have been in a field but in consequence of the damp grass it was held on the road. The platform was a chair placed against a gate in Middle Watch and about 70 people attended, young ladies being mainly in evidence. Mrs Rackham's speech was eloquent and moderate in tone but it evoked no enthusiasm; there were no interruptions and no questions at the end. But a few gave in their names as 'friends of women's suffrage' and leaflets were distributed 12 08 16d

1912 08 23

Youths and children clustered closely to the lorry from which Mrs Brailsford was speaking to the crowds on Parker's Piece; they pushed it six inches in one direction, then a foot back. The crowd moved with it. Then it was pushed right across towards Park Terrace. She thanked the boys for the nice ride and picked up her speech exactly where she'd left it. The lads then pushed her into the middle of a cricket match before a policeman chained up one of the back wheels. Later they scrambled on to the lorry and tore up the 'Votes for Women' papers. "For a University town, it is absolutely disgraceful, I never had such a thing happen before, not even in Whitechapel", she said before heading down Regent Street followed by a crowd, booing and shouting 12 08 23i

1912 08 30

The school attendance officer gave evidence against a Hildersham mother who had not sent her child to school. Despite his objections the rector of Hildersham insisted on speaking on the woman's behalf. She had seven children and there had been no previous complaints. One girl had been send home because of the verminous state of her head; she had also been taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital suffering from adenoids and was under the doctor some days. The attendance officer was wrong to attack a poor widow woman in this way Magistrates made an order for the child to be sent to school 12 08 30e & f

1912 10 04

Cambridge Women's Suffrage meeting & petition against forcible feeding – 12 10 04f

1912 10 11

Messrs Gurteen, the Haverhill textile manufacturers, employs 500 married women outworkers. There were three units in the trade: ready-made clothing, textile work and hair weaving and glove making. If the women qualified for benefit it would pay them better to rest than to work, an inquiry into the Insurance Act was told. But Union officials said there should be no distinction between inside workers and those outside. If the outworkers were exempt from the Act they would be employed in preference to the single inside workers who would have to be insured. 12 10 11

1912 10 11

An Ely Diocesan report on housing conditions says that the greatest sufferers are the mothers of families. The fathers go out all the day to work, the children are in school but the women are anchored in the house. The combined effect of insufficient space, bad sanitation, poor water supply and air

deprived of oxygen produces a kind of torpor which disinclines her to any exertion and she cannot control high-spirited children who seek amusement in the streets. Many women allow their homes to remain dirty but an untidy house drives the husband to the tavern where he spends the money which might make the house more comfortable 12 10 11b & c

1912 10 25

The non-militant Cambridge Association for Women's Suffrage held a well-attended meeting in the Guildhall. 12 10 25d

1912 11 01

Women's social & political union meeting Market Hill on suffrage – 12 11 01e

1912 11 22

Votes for women debate at Union Society – 12 11 22a

1912 12 06

Women's suffrage meeting addressed by Rackham – 12 12 06b

1912 12 06

Mrs Pankhurst visit to Guildhall – opposition – 12 12 06c; advert 12 12 12aa

1912 12 06

The Cambridge Home of Mercy (Female Refuge) afforded women who have been following a sinful court of life a home where they may be usefully employed and instructed in religion. The Mission House on Newmarket Road provided temporary shelter for girls and women while inquiries were made, then placed them in homes and situations. It was unfortunate that men led women astray and women led men astray and the blame must be borne by both. The girls were grateful to be rescued; one who had led a notorious and openly evil life had married and now leads a respectable life 12 12 06e

1912 01 31

There are ten Common Lodging Houses in Cambridge occupied by over 1,100 people each week. Of these, seven were licensed. Where lodging houses had licences for the sale of intoxicating liquor it made enforcement of regulations difficult. Men and women wanting lodgings were tempted, instead of purchasing food, to buy and consume drink at all hours until their slight means are exhausted. Residence in such common lodging houses tends to degrade and where both men and women are received, does not tend to morality, magistrates were told 13 01 31 p6 CIP

1913 02 07

Newmarket licensing magistrates heard there were two public houses at Dullingham Ley, one to only 20 cottages. The landlord of the Rising Sun beerhouse had been asked not to supply a woman with drink. But she'd drunk until closing at lunch time, and then left with men who'd been drinking. She fell down on the road very drunk, was lifted on to a bicycle, held there, wheeled to the farmyard of Mr Holland, pitched on some straw, hay and water thrown on her, made sport of and indecently assaulted. This was a very unseemly exhibition for a Sunday. 13 02 07

1913 02 28

The master of Cambridge workhouse reported that one girl refused to take food – whether she had the suffragettes' complaint or not he did not know – and could only be persuaded to take milk. She was once a plump, comely young woman but was fast reducing to a shadow. It was distressing. He had even provided special food and inmates often tempted her to eat, but she obstinately refused. It might be case for compulsory feeding and the medical officer should be consulted – 13 02 14 p6 CIP  
Progress of temperance work – apathy in Cambridge: there had been a decrease in drunkenness among men but women have got less shame at entering public houses than they formerly did. 13 02 28 p3 CIP

*National British Women's Temperance Association annual meeting*

1913 02 28

Respectable women found it difficult to get lodgings in Cambridge at a low price. There were three common lodging houses but they were mixed, taking both men and women. They were all in the Barnwell district and all on licensed premises. There were also furnished rooms often let for the night, but they were not under inspection and presented a serious problem from the moral point of view. Nearly a third of the women and girls were engaged in some sort of industrial occupation and made their own living to that extent, moving about the country and needed lodgings 13 02 28 p5 CIP

1913 03 07

Mrs Pankhurst, leader of the militant suffragists addressed a meeting at the Blue Boar Hotel. A gramophone in the window of an undergraduate's room was playing the Dead March as she entered the hotel but there was no demonstration. A vigorous anti-suffrage campaign has also been conducted with meetings at Newnham Croft and Fen Ditton disagreeing with votes for women. If women ever sat in Parliament they would insist on a debate on the flannelette question before consideration of foreign policy. 13 03 07 p4 CIP

1913 03 14

Women's work – girls given pocket money, not living wage

1913 04 24

University Proctors give notice that any innkeeper, dealer, livery-stable keeper, motor warehouse keeper, boat-keeper, keeper of a place of entertainment or other person who has any dealings with members of the University who admits to his premises, or to the use of any vehicle or boat in his charge, any woman who he knows to be of loose character in circumstances which may lead her to associate with any student, shall be liable to be discommuned and forbidden to trade with the University. 13 04 24 p5 CIP

1913 05 02 p9 CIP

Women Workers Union first meeting \*

1913 05 09

Politics – women's suffrage bill defeated; women vote speaker heckled by undergraduate 13 05 09 p04 CIP

1913 05 16

Suffragists speaking at the Rutland Hall Newmarket were interrupted by shouting, booing and the singing of 'I want to go to Dixie' and 'Have a banana'. Then a percussion cracker was thrown against the wall, sounding like a revolver shot. Afterwards the ladies were escorted out of the back door by police to where a motor was waiting. In Cambridge an attempt was made to set fire to the Varsity Rugby pavilion using an improvised bomb in a mustard tin. A card reading 'Votes for Women' was found near by together with a ladies shoe, left when she hurried away after lighting the fuse. And a sensation was caused at a leading Cambridge hotel when a square paper parcel labelled 'Votes for Women' was discovered in the lounge. It was quickly removed to a place of safety but on examination was found to contain nothing more explosive than a block of wood 13 05 16 p4, 7, 12 CIP

1913 05 30

Suffragettes attempted to blow up a railway crossing gate at Granhams Road, Shelford. The gatekeeper found a treacle tin with a bootlace through the lid connecting with a long red squib inside. It was surrounded by cotton wool soaked in oil and lumps of charcoal. On the outside was written 'Votes for Women'. There is little doubt it was a genuine article that could have set fire to the gate

had the lighted lace not gone out. It was immersed in a bucket of water. Rumours said that two strange women had been seen near the site 13 05 30 p11 CIP

1913 08 01

The unfamiliar sounds of wooden clogs have been heard on the pavements of Soham for a large number of holidaymakers from Rotten Stile, Lancashire, have been staying at various houses. The women wore the customary shawls over their heads. Many trippers come year by year, putting up at farmhouses and enjoy the peace and quiet of the fen and farm land after the hurry and bustle of the manufacturing towns – 13 08 01 p11 CIP

1913 08 01

The village feast at Brampton has been marred by a shocking tragedy, a labourer named Frederick Seekings having, it is alleged, murdered a woman who passed as his wife, on the way home. Two men noticed something on the grass at the side of the road. It was Mrs Seekings, dead with a terrible wound in her throat. The man lay on the grass beside her. Both were under the influence of drink. The pair were not married, the woman really being the wife of a man at Kettering 13 08 01 CIP

1913 08 08

A white-haired 86-year-old old lady came before Linton Guardian to lay a grievance. The Master said she had been insubordinate, had conveyed messages between and old man and an imbecile woman. She had had her tea and sugar stopped and been prevented from going into the fields. The woman said she's broken the rules in complete ignorance. She'd accepted some apples over the hedge and for that her tea and sugar were stopped. Although 86 she was active and wanted to get in the fields. Guardians must support the Master but they would allow the tea and sugar now she'd apologised. 13 08 08 p3 CIP

1913 08 15

The Romsey Town holiday play centres organised by the National Union of Women Workers have met with great approval. The centre for girls and infants is the Cambridge United Football Ground. It is a pretty sight to enter the spacious well-shaded field and see the children all at their happy occupations, crayoning, building castles out of bricks or tugging toy engines about. On the grandstand children dress dolls or knit while in a shady spot there are swings. Games such as cricket, shuttlecock and the maypole have been arranged. 13 08 15 p12 CIP

1913 09 28

Harrods are offering 12 positions to girls educated at Girton College, though they are not sure such a class of women are appropriate: "I cannot imagine the Girton girl selling woollens over the counter", a manager says. Their temperament is altogether unsuitable and they would find it difficult to adapt to the surroundings. The girls agree: their training fits them for professions. They could do no good in a shop and their knowledge would be wasted. They lead a healthy outdoor life and do not want to be boxed up with just a fortnight's holiday. 13 09 28 p6 CIP

1913 10 17

At the Assizes the top gallery was filled with women when a suffragette was accused of setting fire to a house in Storey's Way. She denied having started the blaze but had been at the site and dropped her watch. It was identified by her uncle, a Norwich policeman. Pink flannelette smelling strongly of paraffin had been wound round a ladder and set alight. Her coat smelled of paraffin. She asked the jury: "Do I look like a person who would go about with flannelette and cans of petrol and set fire to houses". She was convicted. 13 10 17 p8 # c.34.75

1913 11 21

Newmarket Guardians received a letter from Fred Starling of East End, Isleham which read: "I, the said Frederick Starling, kindly ask the Board to find me a wife between 65 and 70. I am a bird-catcher, and have a comfortable room for a respectable woman". Mr Robins said he must be difficult

to please if he could not find a wife in Isleham. The Master said he had no one to recommend 13 11  
21 p4

1913 11 28

Women policemen discussed

1913 12 12

Suffragette militant methods defended

1913 12 12

Tragedy of sweated women – sad stories

1914 01 23

Tom Hay ward's Marriage.—Mr. Tom Hayward, of Cambridge, the Surrey cricketer, was on Tuesday married at the Registrar's Office, Wandsworth, to Miss Matilda Emma Mitchell, daughter of Mr. Sydney Edward Mitchell, of Putney. Elaborate preparations had been made to keep the wedding a secret, and only about half a dozen people, including a Press photographer, saw Mr. and Mrs. Hayward leave the register office. Mrs. Hayward told a Pressman that she had known "Tom" for 18 years, but that they had lost sight of one another for a long time. In 1911 it was by chance that they met again, and she agreed to marry him. "The bride is one of the most famous women detectives," says the "Daily Mail." At times dressed as a man, looking and acting the part, as actors say, she did work for the South-Western Railway Company, and then entered the service of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, riding about the country on horses to detect unlicensed "vets." Afterwards she became head of the secret service staff at Selfridge's. "Divorce has really been my speciality in the past," said Mrs. Hayward, smiling, "but I have finished with it now. Tom and I go to Paris tomorrow, and we are going to be very happy." After next season Tom will retire from cricket – Mrs Hayward says so. And it is for this reason it is to be feared that the oft-deferred farewell will at last be made, to the regret of cricketing England.

1914 01 23

Kingston parish council had been using the school room for their meeting and had burned lights and had a fire, but at what cost? A poor woman had to come in and clean up after the meeting without any reward or fee. She had also bought oil, because they, poor distressed people, could not provide for themselves. She was paid for cleaning the school for the children and should be paid a shilling out of the parish fund for extra meeting. The coals they used belonged to the Education Committee. The parish council should be capable of financing their parish affairs. If not they should make way for somebody else, Mr Ingle said. 14 01 23 e & f

1914 03 27

Miss Ethel Sargent, the well-known botanist of Girton College, enjoys the distinction of being the first woman to hold the office of President of any section of the British Association. But she is refusing to pay the King's Taxes as a protest against being taxed without having a vote. Articles, including microscopic accessories and Zeiss lenses were seized and sold by auction on the Green at Girton. It is the third such sale since 1912 14 03 27b & c

1914 06 19

The caravan of the Women's Health Association visited Lt Ouse where an address with cinematograph pictures was given by Miss Faithful Davis in a hall at the White House Farm, kindly lent by Mrs Luddington. Next morning she gave two lectures to children at the Little Ouse and Feltwell Fen schools. All the lectures were well attended 14 06 19 p11 p11

1914 06 26

There is no lodging house accommodation for women only in Cambridge. Two licensed houses cater for only the painted or vagrant classes. There is a need for some place to which respectable women and girls in need of a night's lodgings could go. Formerly they were taken at the White Ribbon Coffee

Tavern on East Road but this has stopped. Now the council have purchased a house for the purpose and plans for conversion are underway 14 06 26 p4

1914 07 10

Gaol closure female side: The Chief Constable reported that as there were so few prisoners, the female side of Cambridge Prison had been closed, and in future all commitments of women will have to be made to the prisons at Ipswich and Northampton 14 07 10 p4

1914 07 10

Suffragette campaign Market Hill: Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association organising a series of open-air meetings on Market Hill every Tuesday evening during July.

Cartoon women bathing

Miss P.H. Peckover's Wisbech Local Peace Campaign comprised eight thousand men women and children bound by the declaration that war is contrary to the mind of Christ. She had spent a little fortune in helping the movement, publishing a quarterly magazine, 'Peace & Goodwill' and her beautiful home had long been a place of pilgrimage

Women's work in Cambridge

1914 07 17

Women constables were needed in Cambridge to look after the girls. It would be a most valuable innovation if they had one or two women to go about at night and influence the young girls about in the streets and take them home. There was a need of them in public parks and open spaces. Their work would be entirely in connection with women, girls and young children, Miss Cochrane said. But no other Guardians agreed. 14 07 17 p8

1914 08 14

Histon women working party wounded

1914 10 02

It was hoped that Cambridge municipal elections would pass off without a contest but the Labour Party, who are still without a seat, have decided to attack two seats. One of these is Romsey Town where Tom Orrey will again be the candidate for the sixth time. In Fitzwilliam Ward we have the novel experience of a lady candidate for the first time under the new Qualification Act., Mrs J.M. Keynes, chairman of the National Union of Women Workers 14 10 02

1914 10 23

When the war broke out a number of German women were in Cambridge for the University Extension Course. One of them has described her experiences in the 'Cologne Gazette' which is strictly anti-English. She says that they had been cut off from their families and were without money. They were taken into families who helped them, then raised funds, took them to the station and arranged for their journey home. They were treated courteously in every respect.

1914 10 30

Cambridge Women Suffragette Association has published a leaflet 'How to Help in Cambridge in time of war' listing organisations rendering public service. It includes the local branches of the National Relief Fund Committee and the Soldiers and Sailors' Families Association, relieving distress and supporting dependents of men serving. The Red Cross Society conveys wounded to the First Eastern Hospital and supplies blankets. Others are the Ladies' Recruiting Committee, the Sidgwick School of Needlework and the Charity Organisation Society

1914 12 04

Chance for Women Policemen. — It is not so long ago (writes Free Lance) since Lady Darwin suggested the appointment of one or two women policemen for the Borough of Cambridge, and if only part of what I hear is correct, there would be plenty of scope for the services of such an official in Cambridge Just now. Reports reach me of a most undesirable state of things existing

after nightfall on Parker's Piece and other open spaces and it is suggested that clergy and ministers should take the matter up with a view to asking the military authorities whether it would not be possible to keep these places under keen surveillance at night. The Women's Franchise Association, too, now that they are experiencing a time of more or less inactivity, might with advantage, exercise their influence upon the young girls to be found in these spots at such undesirable hours.

1914 12 11

Trade & employment in Cambridge have not been hit by the war. But with nearly 600 students missing, colleges that are hardest hit will be unable to keep on all their servants. Twenty per cent of builders are now out of work. Many women are employed in the jam factory at Histon and in the two knitting factories where War Office order shave provided more work than usual. Women have obtained posts vacated by men clerks who have gone to war but a large number of day girls are out of work owing to the light of the lodging-house keepers. As these girls are in many cases the daughters of women who are themselves injured by the war, this state of affairs means a further depletion of an already scanty income. For good general servants there is a greater demand than supply, but there is very little demand for the services of any of the better class of servants and the number of between-maids out of employment is especially large. Hand laundresses have been very hard hit by the war. The great majority of these women are normally engaged in working for the colleges and, owing to the stoppages of games, the amount of washing sent per man is much less this term. When the woman is the chief breadwinner of the family their position is extremely serious. The laundresses themselves are not in such a bad plight, for many have made considerable sums during the busy six months of the year and many of them have savings laid by. But only in very few cases have they got husbands in independent work. A large number of tailoresses are entirely unemployed and the remainder are working short time. Some have gone to Leeds to work making khaki uniforms and others will probably follow. The better class dressmakers seem more affected than the inferior ones. Business is slack just now and is expected to be much worse after Christmas when business is usually slack. The dressmakers and milliners' hand employed in shops seem to be on short time. Here too the better class shops are worse hit than the cheapest establishments and several employees say they will be unable to keep their hands for a prolonged period without a considerable improvement. Shirt makers are busy at present but their usual work is almost entirely replaced by the making of shirts for officers' outfits and there is apprehension that at the end of this term this work will be to a large extent cease

15 02 26

Tipperary rooms open – centre for women and girls; completion of Fitzroy Hall – 15 02 26a

1915 11 10

Women manure-spreading on Avenue Farm, Elsworth – photo – 15 11 10e

1916 01 05

Pte E.E.H. Wright in uniform of Women's Volunteer Reserve – photo – 16 01 05c

1916 05 17

Miss E.C. Jones, Mistress of Girton – profile – 16 05 17b

1916 09 13

Adopted from Germany. What has induced our working class women in Cambridge to dress their hair with the Gretchen braid plaited over their heads? This is entirely a German fashion, and one would have thought German fashions were out of favour, particularly with women. It has simplicity to recommend it, and it is becoming to a certain type of beauty, but it is a German style, and we do not wish to copy German ways of doing things. Surely our women can find some different manner of doing their hair. The adoption of the fashion at this moment is another illustration of the insinuating way in which German ideas are spread amongst the people of this country women's war employment

1916 10 18

Cambridge girls join munition workers at Woolwich Arsenal – 16 10 18d

1916 11 01

glove making – a new industry; when undergraduates left there was grave unemployment and Rutherford & Clothier of King's Parade introduced glove making, now producing 600 pairs a week by women working at home on machines provided by the firm; are difficulties obtaining fabric – 16 11 01b

1916 11 22

Photo women on land, Milton women – 16 11 22e

1917 01 17

Schoolmistress resigns - Miss Theobald, the respected headmistress, has resigned her office as teacher of the village school, after a period of service extending to nearly 37 years; she is probably the oldest teacher in Cambs. in years of service under one body of managers, A movement is being promoted in the village and among old scholars to present her with some mark of recognition for her work in the village during that long time,

1917 01 17

"All Wrong" - The proposal that young girls might be trained for milking and feeding cows, that is "turned from, domestic employment on to a farm to work among boys and men without any supervision" is declared by the Cambs. County Education Secretary to be a system "that is all wrong." The opinion is contained in an interesting report which comes before the Cambs. Education Committee today, when the Agricultural Sub-committee will report that they have considered the resolution passed by the Cambs. War Agricultural Committee to put in hand at once a scheme of training for women in milking and other agricultural work, together with a report by the Education Secretary on training girls as milkers.

1917 02 28

Women Scavengers — The following is an extract from the minutes of the Paving (etc.) Committee which will come before the Cambridge Town Council, tomorrow. — The chairman reported that Mrs. Keynes, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Women's War Employment, had suggested that some of the workmen employed by the Corporation might be released for National Service and the scavenging of the streets be carried out by women. The Borough Surveyor explained that he had placed no obstacle in the way of the men going, but he had not pressed any men to go. The Committee approved the action taken by the Borough Surveyor.

1918 03 27

Women scavengers – photo – 18 03 27e

1918 05 15

Hours and wages on the land for women, girl and boy labour – meeting – 18 05 15b

1918 05 28

Women's Land Army demonstration – 200 parade with motor tractor and traction engine; demonstration of hay bailing on Parker's Piece; need for more labour – 18 05 29b, c

1918 06 05

Women's Land Army recruiting rally – photos – 18 06 05b

1918 07 10

Women road sweepers photo – 18 07 10d

1918 08 07

Women workers at gas works – photo feature – 18 08 07c

1918 10 09

Women's Institutes work in Cambridgeshire, various industries – cobbling, hurdle-making, pig keeping; are over 200 National Service girls working on farms in Cambridgeshire – 18 10 09d

1918 03 27

Princess Mary at Cambridge. Princess Mary paid her first visit to Cambridge on Saturday afternoon, and saw the old University town under its most modern conditions, its begowned undergraduates replaced by brown uniformed officer cadets and its men in many cases supplemented by women. It was in recognition of the women to the winning of the war that Her Royal Highness honoured the town with her presence. Her task was to present badges of various kinds to the Women of the Land Army and the Village Workers and to encourage more to come forward in "support of the food line"

1918 04 03

Women Scavengers. — Women are now employed by the Cambridge Corporation as street scavengers and are performing the duties very capably, too.

1918 04 24

The woman thatcher. — The Women's Branch of the Food Production Department are being asked for thatchers. Mole catching and hurdle making are also to be numbered among the young ladylike accomplishments nowadays. Land Army women are excellent hurdlemakers, too, though their first instructor was sceptical of their capacity to learn the art.

1918 05 08

Fulbourn Nurse Honoured. Hearty congratulations to Sister ... of nearly four years' splendid work at the V.A.D. Hospital, Fulbourn. On Saturday she was received by the King at Buckingham Palace and was presented with a silver medal. At Marlborough House she was presented with a Lovel Certificate and a book entitled, "The Way of the Red Cross," by Queen Alexandra. The nurses and patients of the Red Cross Hospital, Fulbourn met the sister on her return journey and gave her a cordial reception

Morality of Cambridge. — Speaking at the Cambridge Ruri-Decanal Conference on Friday, the Mayor of Cambridge (the Rev. Dr. E. C. Pearce, Master of Corpus Christi) referred to the question of immorality. He said he very much feared it was rife in the town. It was not only the young girls who were the offenders, it was also the older married women whose husbands were very often on active service. The Watch Committee were quite alive to the state of the streets, and the audience might be interested to hear that they had just decided to appoint two police-women (applause). That was a start and he hoped there would be more in time.

1918 05 29

Women of the Cornfield.—A demonstration given by members of the Women's Land Army at Cambridge on Saturday afternoon - attracted a good deal of public attention and interest and should result in large numbers of girls in the district flocking to play their part by filling the gaps left in the ranks of the agricultural workers.

1918 07 10

Uniformed Women Scavengers. A notable feature of Cambridge streets is the women scavengers, who are now turned out in a smart uniform. They are doing their work in a very capable fashion, and keep the thoroughfares wonderfully spick and span

1918 12 11

40 cases a day.—Wordsworth Grove Hospital, Cambridge, has been fortunate in having the Newnham gymnasium lent to them for their massage and electrical department, a large, airy bright building

where between 30 and 40 cases a day are treated—men in hospital in the mornings, and out-patients and discharged soldiers in the afternoons from Swavesey, Newton, Harston, Duxford and outlying villages. The treatments are massage, galvanism and Faradism, radiant heat, hot air and ionisations and exercise. The work here, as in all other Red Cross Hospitals in the county, is carried on under the supervision of Miss Laven, who has been untiring in her efforts on behalf of the wounded ever since the outbreak of war.

1919 07 08

Cambridge Bedmakers' and helps outing – group photo; National Federation of Women Workers number 2,000 including wood-workers, tin-workers, scientific instrument, laundry, hosiery and glove workers; settle terms of work, pay – 19 07 08c

1919 10 01

Linton Women's Institute stall – photos – 19 10 01c

1919 12 03

Women's Land Army demobilisation conference at Cambridge; National Association of Land Women set up as successor and to assist in agriculture – 19 12 03b

1919 02 19

Out of Work.—We are very much concerned (says the writer of Town and Country Topics) at the announcement made to the Mayor last week-end that there are some 1,031 people out of employment at Cambridge. This is a very serious matter, and the question we should like to have decided at once is whether this unemployment is a matter of necessity or choice—in other words, whether it is due to lack of opportunities of work or is being fostered and maintained by the unemployment pay. We are disposed to believe that the latter is the case, especially with regard to the unemployment of women. Everywhere one hears of women being wanted in domestic service, but apparently the majority of them have: made up their minds not to take up such service, except upon terms and conditions which they cannot seriously hope to obtain. We believe that the out of work pay is responsible for a good deal of the (existing) trouble and we hope and believe that the nation will insist upon a prompt and thorough revision of the situation

1919 06 04

Women's Land Army, — The County Land Girls (Women's Land Army) were given an "At Home" at the Lion Hotel. A number received Good Service Ribbons from Mrs. Adeane and eight were presented with special badges for meritorious service.

1920 01 14

Chesterton war orphans – 70 children entertained by Women's Liberal Association – photo – 20 01 14c

1920 02 28

College bedmakers and women working at Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company discussed' bedmakers wages so low they need to go on parish for relief; wages should be subsidised by colleges

1920 02 25

Cambridge Shelter for Girls established 1851 by undergraduates and occupied building in Church St; had workshop in Newmarket Road till temporarily closed in 1918 because of lack of a worker. Re-opened 1918 as first-aid station for women in distress; needs support – 20 02 25a

1920 05 20

Women and degrees – syndicate appointed to consider whether they should be admitted to membership or how university could co-operate with the women's colleges, are unable to agree - CDN 20 05 12

1920 07 28

The Women Magistrates, — On the occasion of the members of the Cambridge and District Women Citizens' Association last evening, pleasure was expressed at the appointment of women magistrates in Cambridge. The rally was held in the garden of Sidney Sussex College under the presidency of Mrs. Heitland. At the outset, Mrs. Heitland said the association had taken its part in the consideration of important questions of the day, and the members were exceedingly pleased that local women had now been appointed magistrates for the administration of the law (Hear hear.). The Vice-chairman of the Association (Mrs. Keynes) was one of the new justices and another member who had been appointed was Mrs. Bethune Baker, whose work in the police court with Mrs. Hutchinson had been of so much value in the past (Hear, hear). Other women who had worked to advance the interests of women, children and the poor had also been appointed to the Bench, and were extremely gratified by the appointment of Lady Newton in the County (Applause). They hoped that other women would be associated with Lady Newton in the near future. The Chairman referred also to the work of women who had been elected to the local authorities, and to the splendid part which they had taken in connection with the housing problem.

1920 08 28

Cambridge first women J.P.s photographed in Daily Graphic

1920 10 13

German rifle presented to Cambridge Women's Liberal War Savings Association; Cambridge had been offered a tank but declined — 20 10 13

1920 11 03

Women's Institutes. The quarterly meeting of the committee and delegates of the Cambs Federation of Women's Institutes was held on Saturday afternoon. Mrs Jenyns (Bottisham) presided supported by Miss Briscoe (Cambridge) hon. secretary Miss Warrington (Waterbeach), the treasurer; Mrs. Haslam (Girton), the Fete secretary; Mrs. Bafnell (Little Shelford), Miss Stanton (Linton), Mrs. Sidney Fordham (Odsey), Mrs. Kellett the area organiser etc. The treasurer's statement showed there was a balance of £20 1s 6d for use during the first quarter of the year. It was decided to continue the rest room at Cambridge for the use of the members. The meeting considered the advisability of starting an Institute stall in the Cambridge Market. The chairman said a stall would not be available for two months and the cost would be 2s 6d a day. The hon. secretary said if the Federation got a better office in some public place they might have the produce on sale at the office. It was decided that the matter should be considered further at a later meeting. An interesting and Instructive lecture was given by Mrs Wootton of Girton College on 'High Prices.' Mrs. Wootton said each time she had given a lecture she had spoken with increasing cheerfulness of prices coming down and now she thought she might say they were coming down. There were two chief reasons for high prices, viz there were not enough things, and there was too much money to buy those things. There was less coal mined and less steel made before the war, and these were the things upon which everything depended. Modern civilisation was built up on coal. There was certainly profiteering, but this could not be if there was enough to go round. It was no use having money unless there were things to buy. There were £350,000,000 of paper money in the country, and it was the increase of the money that had helped to send prices up. The money was only put into circulation because the Government could not get it any other way. The Government and the people of the country were really bidding for the goods. The country was now not only paying for imports but they had a surplus of £200,000.000 a year which helped to lower prices. The making of paper money had been checked. The Government was paying its way, and on the whole the two sides of the budget balanced.

1920 11 04

Bookbinders Union branch reopened 1917 after being closed for 50 or 60 years; three years ago average wage very low and negotiations had taken place. Employees resisted minimum wage for women; 60 women had been on strike for a fortnight

1920 12 09

University reject admission of women by 192 votes - CDN 20 12 09

1920 12 22

Girton Village Women's Institute new hall erected – 20 12 22e

1921 04 06

Frederick Woor, Master Tailor, Sidney St, paid less than minimum wage to his women – 21 04 06c

1921 10 26

University votes against women's degrees; undergraduate mock funeral – photos – 21 10 26b

1922 03 25

There was issued yesterday the report of the Royal Commission on Oxford and Cambridge Universities. "We are unanimous in thinking" (says the Commissioners) "that ample facilities should be offered for the education of women. On the other hand we strongly desire that Cambridge should remain mainly and predominantly a men's university. To give a sense of security we consider that the number of women undergraduates should be 500, which would give a proportion of about one in each ten of the total number of undergraduates" c22 03 25

1922 04 15

The wartime procedure of dispensing with the chaperon is no longer tolerated in "polite society". For the chaperon times have altered considerably in the past eight years and at balls instead of sitting in state up a dais, bored to extinction, she takes her place among the dancers and combines with her duties as guardian pleasurable exercise. Owing to heavy taxation and general increased expenditure many women bearing titles and possessed of ancestral homes are glad to become professional chaperons

1922 07 31

The "No More War" demonstration held on Parker's Piece, Cambridge, was attended by a gratifying measure of success. The procession extended more than half the length of Gonville-place, and the crowd at the meetings held on the Piece afterwards was so large that the two platforms provided were not sufficient, and a motor-car had to be requisitioned for the purposes of a third meeting. In addition to the banners of the various societies there were numerous bearing inscriptions such as "For Peace and Freedom" (Women's International League), "Patriotism is not enough", "Cambridge Sisterhood says No More War". In addition there were scores of bannerettes bearing the words "No More War". Mrs Nevinson referred to the number of deaths from influenza in 1918 which was really a war plague. They kept the memory of the dead alive but did they remember the maimed, the blind, shell-shocked and the mad? No one was worrying about those men

1922 09 15

Judging by the enthusiasm shown at the first meeting of the Littleport Women's Institute it is quite safe to assume that the branch is going to be a great success. 45 new members were enrolled, thus giving a satisfactory nucleus for the formation of a flourishing branch. Mrs Luddington stressed that it was non-political and undenominational and there were over 2,000 institutes throughout the country. A demonstration of basket and tray making was given by Mrs Comins and Mrs Covill. A "nonsense" competition caused great amusement, after which games and dancing were joined in by all.

1922 10 04

Since the extension of the franchise to women, and largely because of this, there have been started in the villages of the country social centres for women which are called Women's Institutes, for the purpose of instructing women as to their new duties as active political citizens, and for social intercourse generally. In order to stimulate the movement a meeting was called in Newmarket. The speaker said women who found themselves face to face with the responsibility of the vote sometimes realised how little they knew. One man she knew was so enthusiastic about the institute that he

actually volunteered to mind the baby while his wife went to the Institute. And when he was told that while he was minding one baby he might as well mind six he consented to do that - (applause) - so that five other women could go with his wife.

1922 11 06

The Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment hope to open a centre in Eden Street, Cambridge, for training girls in all branches of women's work including cookery, laundry, housewifery and health subjects. It is believed that many girls are prevented from taking up domestic work through lack of the money to buy the necessary outfit. In their needlework classes they will make their uniform and at the end of the training each girl will be completed with a complete uniform. The period of training is generally 13 weeks and the chance which this course gives to unemployed girls to make a fresh start is one which may not recur, and which should not lightly be refused # c.28

1922 11 29

Mr Doggett told Saffron Walden Board of Guardians that a lady visitor had said she had found the fires in the women's wards very low at 3.30 and learned that instructions had been given that they were not to have any more coal that day. Another had examined the bed clothes and found only one fairly thick blanket, one very thin one and one counterpane. The inmate was experiencing discomfort through cold. He said they must take into consideration the ages of the occupants, also that the windows must of necessity be kept open

1923 01 29

The third annual meeting of the Cambridgeshire Federation of Women's Institutes was held in the Cambridge Guildhall. Representatives from 28 out of 29 institutes attended and steady expansion was reported in all branches. The office and shop at 10 St Edward's Passage has been a great factor in this advance. Institute members now have a central meeting place where they can view each other's work and exchange ideas, whilst inhabitants of Cambridge have the opportunity of getting into touch with country women and are glad to profit from the results of the homecrafts practiced by their country sisters

1923 11 27

The accommodation on the women's side at Fulbourn hospital is now strained to its utmost limit. The chairman said they had 71 more women on their books than they could accommodate and they dealt with the problem by sending 20 patients to Worcester. If they sent the other 50 to another hospital they would find they were sending out some of their best workers and they would have to have a larger staff to do the work of these 50. Dr Reardon said they could not recommend reconstructing the male part of the asylum and use it for females

1924 04 28c

Sir - Cambridge council practically excludes modest women - and men - from the new bathing place, unless they are prepared to do violence to their own decent instincts. What the council practically declares is in effect, 'Go and bathe as domestic animals do, male and female all together - they never object so why should you?' What this atrocious decision means is that decent men and modest women are to be excluded from all reasonable participation in a very pleasant summer exercise - A Decent Englishwoman

1924 07 13c

King's Meadow and Fellow's Garden made an ideal setting for such a gay function as the Cambridge Pageant and Gala held there yesterday. The chief attraction was the pageant depicting Stourbridge Fair in 1450, a brilliant affair for which the Women's Institutes were responsible. Over 500 performers took part. Among the gay throng were monks and nuns in the sober habits of their orders and an undergraduate or two. Morris dancers, jongleurs and mummers, with a dancing bear have a merry performance

1924 11 11c

Councillor Mrs Hartree was elected first lady mayor of the Borough of Cambridge. She accepted the honour as a representative of the women of Cambridge who desired to work side by side with the men in the service of their town. She had consulted some authorities, and some of the women, and it had been decided the best mode of addressing the Mayor would be "Mr Mayor" as usual. (Hear, hear and applause).

1924 11 13

The deepest regret will be felt at the death of Mrs A.C. Steward, wife of the Master of Downing College. From its foundation in the dark days of 1915 she was the life and soul of the Cambridge Tipperary Club which did much to help and cheer the sorrow-stricken women of Cambridge during the anxious years of war-time, ever-ready to advise and console. When peace came they continued the club to be a centre of social enjoyment and of mutual improvement for all women without distinction of class, creed or political opinion

1924 12 24c

The Policeman in his time plays many parts, but it is doubtful if he ever plays such a delightful part as members of the Cambridge Force did when the distribution of gifts to the poor and needy took place. PC Hagger acted as butcher. Aproned in the approved style and armed with a steel and murderous knives, he chopped and boned joints of meat with a happy smile. Sergt Sharman wrapped up good things, struggling with newspaper and grease-proof paper and slippery meat. Policewomen Jude & Carnegie Brown dealt with the milk and looked after the children. Every recipient met with a cheery wish for a Happy Christmas and all took their gifts with a smile and profuse thanks

1925 06 08

The Bishop of Ely formally opened Stanton House, the new Cambridge Shelter for Women and Girls at Glisson Road. The Home is open day and night, not only for what are generally known as "rescue cases" but for all those who find themselves stranded in the town without means of getting lodgings. Many cases are brought by the police. The inmates stay until they can be restored to their friends or arranged for in suitable institutions. Originally started in 1854 by a few undergraduates it has several times been temporarily closed down on account of financial difficulties and as often re-opened at the request of town authorities

1925 07 22

The annual show held under the auspices of the Wilburton Women's Institute and village took place at St Peter's Hall. "Without a doubt the finest show ever held in Wilburton" was the remark made by the horticultural judge. Here were staged some of the finest specimens the district could produce. Some fine black currants were exhibited by Mr J. Sneesby, Mr W. Norfolk swept the board with some perfect tomatoes & Mrs Healey Wilson had a mauve colour table decoration which claimed first prize.

1925 12 12

The Cambridge Women's Welfare Association was formed recently to bring a knowledge of birth control methods within reach of poor mothers. It is a rule that every woman attending must be seen by a doctor and the Cambridge Centre, Fitzroy Hall, Wellington Street has both a lady doctor and a certified midwife in attendance. The London Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics began its work in a small way at Walworth and now has centres at North Kensington and Wolverhampton as well as Cambridge. At Walworth 5,275 separate cases have been dealt with since its work began in 1921.

1926 02 05

Coun Few said they were very proud of the houses they had built in Vinery Road and Coleridge Road, but they were now proposing to build houses that in a few years would become a slum area. They would be spoiling Cambridge if they built non-parlour houses with only one living room. They ought to consider the women who had to live in those houses. "We men only pop in and pop out, as it were,

we are only lodgers; it is our working women who have to put up with them all the time. I call that type of house unfit for human being to live in as far as the wife and children are concerned", he said.

1926 03 18

Sir – I shall be grateful if you will allow me to call attention to the urgent need of a gramophone for Stanton House (Cambridge Shelter for Women and Girls). There can be no doubt as to the desirability of providing counter attractions for the girls who seek amusement in the streets but it is not easy to do so without some form of music. An unused gramophone (or still better, an old piano) would be most thankfully received – Shirley Blanch

1926 05 18

The Cambridge Joint Emergency Committee wish to place on record their gratitude to the many friends who have helped the men who were on strike; the ministers and clergy who lent rooms and the members of the University who gave lectures and concerts, helped in the club rooms and took parties to see the colleges. Many lent their cars to distribute the "British Worker". By means of the Strike Fund the committee have been able to relieve many cases of distress. The last gathering took place in the Co-operative Hall which was crowded with hundreds of women who enjoyed their entertainment.

1926 06 15

One of the contingents of Women Peacemakers who are converging on London from various parts of the country arrived in Cambridge. Meetings had been held in village after village by the side of the war memorials. They were met by members of the local Pilgrimage Committee and proceeded to the Market Hill where an impromptu meeting was held. They carried various banners and red and blue flags. Mrs Rackham said the gathering recalled the great Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage of 1913 when crowds gathered on the same spot. The Pilgrims leave for Saffron Walden tomorrow.

1926 06 16

A meeting of the Women's Peacemakers' Pilgrimage was attended by a large audience at Cambridge Guildhall. In the next war they would have aeroplanes dropping poisonous bombs that would destroy civilians who had never been near the firing line. They must create such an atmosphere of repugnance that the nations dare not go to war. There were hundreds of people in Newmarket who were not yet converted to the idea of the League of Nations and it was their duty to make converts of all who had not yet joined them.

1926 08 14

Sir – Folk medicine is bound to die out. The substitution of district nurses for the village handywoman as the repositories of most medicinal secrets and customs is tending to do away with the customs and traditions of the good old times. The members of Women's Institutes know a great deal about the subject and old family recipe books will contain interesting matter. I am trying to collect everything I can & shall be glad to hear from correspondents – Mark Taylor, Norwich.

1926 09 11

Cambridge Women's Housing Association has been formed to assist in the supply of houses for the town and, in particular, to meet the urgent demand for the provision of more housing accommodation at an economic rent for the educated woman worker and others. It proposes to purchase suitable houses and convert them into self-contained flats of one, two or three rooms with kitchenettes. At a later stage it is hoped to build a residential club. Already nearly £1,000 has been subscribed.

1926 10 02

A mild sensation has been caused at Hemingford Abbots by a notice on the Rectory Gate. "Young persons and others have adopted a style of dress which is immodest and most objectionable. I disapprove strongly of the short skirts, bare necks and bare arms and hope women will wear more to cover themselves. In fact some cannot be said to be sufficiently clothed. I trust all women not to come to church so attired". It is the work of the rector's warden, Col. Charles Linton, a brisk, short, military-looking man who belongs to the Victorian era & speaks his mind bluntly.

1927 02 14

The Rural Planning Sub-Committee is preparing a scheme to submit to Cambridge Council – not only for the area around its borders but including all the villages from Histon to Stapleford. It was important at a regional survey should be made now, before unconsidered development complicated the problem too much. Questionnaires sent out to the Women's Institutes had brought valuable suggestions of things to be preserved. The County Council was considering a comprehensive scheme.

1927 03 11

Cambridge Women Citizens' Association heard that a cat's shelter should be provided in Cambridge for the reception and humane destruction of neglected, starved diseased and homeless cats. Mrs Norman Mason said last year 478 cats were brought to the home but the council had now ordered the shed to be taken down. Now if a pet cat was brought in they had nowhere to keep it and it had to be chloroformed.

1927 04 13

The proposed appointment of a woman as county instructress in poultry keeping did not find favour with the County council. It was not a suitable job for a woman to go round to many of the outlying farms and it was questionable whether she would be able to get to the meetings in the villages as well as a man. Ald Jackson said poultry on the farm today were not being taken so much advantage of as was possible and if a woman was appointed it would spoil the whole thing from the start. Women looked after poultry on the farm and it had been argued it was best to have a woman to teach the subject. But he never knew a woman yet who sent for a woman doctor to treat her when she was ill (laughter)

1927 04 18

An inquest returned that a Lt Shelford woman found in a well had committed suicide while of unsound mind following an attack of influenza. She had had two lapses of memory. A month ago she had lost her memory for a day and "woke up" in the evening and found her way home after the people in the village had been looking for her all day. Then she had gone to the butcher's but did not arrive and woke up to find herself in the main road in the dark eight miles from home. On Friday they noticed the lid of the well was open and looking down they saw her with her head under the water.

1927 04 23

There is quite a fluttering in the political dovecotes of Cambridge over the Government's decision to give the Parliamentary vote to women at 21 on the same terms as men. This may produce as many as 15,000 new votes. The strongest criticism comes from Cambridge Conservatives who fear for the effects on their own prospects at the poll. In the county very few young girls remain in the country but take up positions in the towns and so do not come on the county registers. Seeing the new bill would bring in women nine years younger, and in addition a number of women of 30 years of age who have not now got the vote, it is estimated the number of new women electors at 5,000.

1927 06 14

Three well-known Cambridge sportsmen who have completed their academic careers distinguished themselves by spending part of the night in the grounds of one of the women's colleges and part in another. At midnight on Saturday they climbed into Newnham, taking with them a tent which they pitched in full view and were not discovered until they were all snug in "bed", when they commenced community singing. Newnham Dons became alarmed and phoned for the police, who turned them out. They then motored to Girton, scaled a twelve-foot wall and pitched the tent. They were not discovered until the early hours of the morning when the earliest risers amongst the lady students saw the strange sight in the middle of the court. c27 06 14

1927 06 15

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1927 08 20

Sympathies go out to the President of Magdalene College and all concerned in the tragic motoring accident near Godmanchester. Cambridge is the poorer by the loss a lady of high ideals who had devoted much of her time and energies to the advancement of women. She was an experienced and extremely careful driver who had taken three-quarters of an hour to cover 14 miles and there cannot be the slightest suggestion of reckless driving or excessive speed. 30 mph is reckoned a safe speed, provided there is a clear, straight road but the consequence of a momentary swerve may be fatal. There is no doubt that nowadays few people stand in greater jeopardy than those who venture on the road.

1927 10 10

No woman has photographed more Royalty or distinguished people than Miss Olive Edis, the well-known expert in the production of monochrome and colour photography. She has her third annual exhibition in Cambridge, although she has worked in the town for some 20 years. One wall has a display of portraits of well-known Cambridge people but the greatest attraction will be the colour photography of local scenes

1928 02 18 c

A women's section of the Cambridge branch of the British Legion came into existence at a meeting held in the Guildhall. Since 1921 they had been growing at a tremendous rate and now had 745 branches of the women's section. It was a national organisation which welcomed applications for grants for training widows in employment and for assisting orphans in train journeys to school. The mayoress (Mrs E.W. Amies) was elected President with Mrs Turner as Chairman, Mrs Cutlack as secretary and Mrs Salisbury Woods as treasurer.

1928 03 01

An interesting debate on "the flapper vote" was held at the Liberal Assembly Rooms, Cambridge. In many spheres of life women were giving valuable service yet they could not have the vote until they were 30 years of age. But the modern girl knew practically nothing about politics. Give the woman of 21 the vote and they would out-vote the men – was that fair? ("Yes"). If women got the vote then the country would only be just "flapping" about. The vote should be used properly and a group of giggling girls could not do that.

1928 03 24

The Women's Institutes Home Crafts Exhibition at the Guildhall features a display of the rooms of village homes, the furniture and other smaller articles of which had been made by the villagers themselves. A sitting room had been made by Balsham members, including a carved sideboard, tables and chairs, a settee made out of boxes and cushions, and a screen made by 23 men. The Barton group showed a bedroom with a wash-hand-stand with marble top. Even the soap was home-made and a pair of candlesticks were made of cotton-reels.

1928 05 08

The work of the Cambridge Birth Control Clinic was explained to Cambridge Women's Welfare Association. The foremost difficulty was the absence of a contraceptive method so simple and effective as to meet the needs of the over-tired, feckless, under-housed, unintelligent or mentally-deficient woman. But although they should do something to enable people to have just the children they could manage, their methods, generally called 'birth control', were disgusting and filthy. There

was danger in the free use of contraceptive methods by unmarried young people. They might be getting to the morals of the poultry yard.

1928 05 14

The Cambridge Social Hygiene Council discussed how to interest young men in the development of the proper sex outlook. Their attendance at lectures and film displays was poor and the majority were undergraduates who clearly came to hear and learn, for their conduct was unexceptional. The meetings for women were attended by about 200 each day, a good part of them adolescent middle-class girls and young married woman, a type not often seen at such meetings.

1928 06 27

Mary White, alias Zeta was charged with using palmistry and crystal gazing to deceive at Midsummer Fair. Two policewomen gave evidence of visiting her tent and paying 3s to have their hands examined. But she had applied to the Borough Surveyor for the ground, six foot by four feet for a palmistry tent and had enclosed 5s for premium. She had a letter giving her permission to stand as palmist. Why was the ground let for business which was said to be illegal. The Bench decided to convict, but with no penalty.

1923 07 11

1,700 women members of the West Ham Central Mission Women's Meeting descended upon Cambridge on their annual outing. The huge party arrived in 56 motor coaches which drew up in a long line in Queen's Road. In a solid mass they came over King's Bridge like an army of Amazons on the march, some expressing disappointment that the Cam was not as wide as the Thames. But as they entered the cool sanctuary of the chapel there was a continuous stream of enthusiastic remarks. The chairs were quickly occupied with mothers with their babies. We doubt there was ever such a scene in the historic chapel before.

1928 10 27

A Lolworth couple were sentenced to six months hard labour for wilful neglect of their four children. They were extremely dirty and verminous and their clothes, the shirts in particular were almost incredibly dirty. The boots were so bad it would be better if they went barefoot. Their beds consisted of old sacks filled with flock and covered with ragged blankets and coats, they were saturated and smelt abominably. The husband was a good working man but the woman made no effort to keep the house or her children clean, and was something of a millstone round his neck.

1928 11 30

Chesterton RDC would never sanction the erection of petrol pumps which encroached on the highway. But the danger was not so much encroachment as the arm of the pump blocking the footpath and causing women with perambulators to go out on to the road. They were also told that during the recent gale the total loss in their 374 houses was one pane of glass and three slates. This was a matter for congratulation.

1928 12 12

Women having been granted the Parliamentary vote the Cambridge Committee for Equal Citizenship celebrated this great event. Invitations were sent out to all members of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association to meet Dame Millicent Fawcett at Newnham College. There was a very large attendance. Mrs Bethune-Baker traced the history of the movement in Cambridge. Among the first subscribers were the Mayor and Vice Chancellor but the cause fell on evil days. Members of the voteless sex had stood all day at polling booths on a wet day and undergraduates had tried to force their way into a meeting at the Guildhall.

1929 01 29

A story of how a large family had been living in a tent of sacks and sticks was unfolded at Cambridge court. The man had not done any work for eight years and the woman provided for her family by hawking. They lived by wandering about the fen district camping out, and the only time the children

had proper covering was when they were in poor law institutions. They had in a tent in Cuckoo Lane, Cottenham; it could not be called waterproof, on the floor was a small portion of straw and there was a foul smell

1929 02 01

An aged Haslingfield woman who had lived for 17 years on parish relief in a state of semi-starvation was found dead in her cottage. After the funeral police searched the house and in all sorts of nooks and crannies found gold, silver and notes. But on several occasions the Relieving Office had found her eating a meal of toast, margarine and tea, and had actually sent out for bacon for her. Her family had no idea she was in receipt of relief and regarded her as a person of independent means.

1929 03 02

Caxton Guardians heard that an elderly brother and sister from Great Eversden had been admitted to the Workhouse because they could not get anyone to look after them. Their house had been searched and £34 10s. in notes, £7 in gold and £42.13.6 in silver, making a total of £84.3.6. was discovered. It is understood the woman also has £199 in the Post Office Savings Bank

1929 03 30

Twenty years ago there were four weekly newspapers published in Cambridge in addition to the C.D.N. Then the Cambridgeshire Weekly News acquired the Cambridge Express and the joint production enlarged from eight to twelve pages. Much has happened since, including the incorporation of the Cambridge Independent Press and the introduction of a picture page. There has been a marked increase in paragraphs of village news; in 1909 three columns were needed, now they claim the whole of the last page of the paper and frequently overflow on to another. Members of the Women's Institutes may be interested to learn that last year we published about 600 reports of their meetings.

1929 11 27

Women students packed the gallery at the Cambridge Union Society when a motion supporting full University rights for women was carried. A sensation was caused before the debate when it was proposed that in view of the importance of the issue involved the gallery should be cleared but the President ruled that this would cause too much disturbance. Women students lived under a code of rules that could only be described as fatuous; one of the women's colleges allowed its students to go unchaperoned to King's Chapel, but to no other. Girton allowed them to go to the theatre 'provided the party was of reasonable size', whilst Newnham were permitted provided the party 'was not of unreasonable size' (laughter)

1929 11 28

An amazing story was told at Huntingdon police court when a woman was charged with obtaining goods and money by false pretences. Edward Elphick, house furnisher of Huntingdon, said she had paid with a cheque that was returned marked 'No account'. Albert Bigmore, jeweller of Ramsey told a similar story. Police said she had made many untruthful statements. She came here about a year ago from Essex where she left her husband and four children and lived at Warboys with another man. She then moved to Wistow, Woodhurst, St Ives and Houghton before taking a cottage at Hartford. Wherever she lived she left behind debts and non-payment of rent. She wrote many letters to herself which purported to be from her uncle promising large sums of money and a motor car. She also claimed to be the widow of a naval officer. None of these were true.

1930 02 26

A woman was summoned for allowing a barn at Fen Ditton to be used for immoral purposes. She had converted it into a dance hall, teas were advertised and dances held. Det-Sergt Willis said he looked through the window and observed people inside. Some of the women attending were known to be of an undesirable character and the men mostly members of the University. The girls were dancing by themselves down the centre of the room holding up their dresses; another girl got on top of the piano and danced. Couples frequently left and went to a nearby cottage. Later the University Proctor

arrived; he went to the dance room which was in darkness and by the light of his lamp could see four undergraduates and seven girls. They said they were telling ghost stories. 30 02 26a-d

1930 04 08

Councillor Mrs Rackham first came to Newnham College in 1895. Returning on her marriage in 1901 she entered into public life as school manager, Guardian and town councillor. In 1902 she started the first local branch of the Women's Co-operative Movement. Her clear-cut voice is well-known on radio and she has recently completed a series of six talks from Savoy Hill on Local Government. She is also a journalist of standing and has contributed a column to 'The Woman's Leader' for the last seven years. 30 04 08a

1930 04 30

Cambridge Guildhall was crowded with an audience chiefly composed of young men and women, but with a fair leavening of older folk, who had come to hear Dr Marie Stopes give an address on birth control. She spoke rapidly for an hour and replied to many questions. Thousands of mothers, having had three or four children, with perhaps only one year between them, finding it difficult to get sufficient food and worn out were in dread of another unwanted child. What was wanted was spaced babies from radiant mothers. Dr Stopes had been abused, insulted and misrepresented but she made people think and talk about birth control. 30 04 30a & b

1930 07 24

A fortune-teller arrested at Cambridge Midsummer Fair appeared in court for palmistry. Two policewomen told how they had visited the 'Royal Gypsy Reader'. They were told that the face was character and the charge 1s.6d., the hands palmistry and the cost 2s.6d. One was assured that her worst financial worries were over and she would not go to the grave single; "You have not met the man yet, but he will come". Amelia Hazelhurst admitted the charge and was fined £1. 30 06 26a  
Mrs Elizabeth Haslop has been described as a woman possessed of splendid business acumen. She carried on her late husband's butcher's business in Silver Street Cambridge and was the last link with the well-known firm which has been in existence for nearly 100 years and will be carried on. In her earlier life she was well-known in the Mill Road district where a small shop near Tension Road was run in her name. 30 07 24

1930 09 04

A Cambridge women told the court she had locked the door of her home at no.5 Guildhall Place but left the front window unfastened to allow her son to get in during the night. She was awakened by her estranged common-law husband who had got in and was flourishing a revolver. He said it was a dummy revolver loaded with blank cartridges and explained they had lived together for 14 years until she took up with a new man. 30 09 04a

1930 09 17

Miss Kitty Willers of Trumpington is a member of the Ladies' Guild of Change Ringers and is one of the very few women who regularly ring church bells. She has rung in over 200 towers in 14 different countries, once cycling 55 miles each way. On Saturday she biked 65 miles - partly in the rain - to attend the opening ceremony of the bells at St Mary's church, Bocking by the Bishop of Chelmsford. 30 09 17b

1930 10 02

A woman told Saffron Walden magistrates that by hawking linoleum her husband and herself earned on average about two pounds a day. The lino was purchased in London, cut into strips and sold from door to door. They were hawking at Ugley when her husband asked if she would like a glass of stout as she was feeding a young baby. But they squabbled after he told her to continue selling while he stayed in the pub and he'd smashed a pint mug into her mouth. 30 10 02a

1930 11 04

It was with a certain amount of trepidation that I called on the Mistress of Girton College, Miss E.H. Major, for this little article. "Ten minutes" I said to the driver of the car that had taken me out. It was two hours before I started on the return journey. For I had been received by a most sympathetic woman in a room harmonious, of gracious proportions, with dishes of woodland flowers on the table; cakes and coffee and cigarettes had been offered to me in friendliness. We touched upon everything under the sun, from starvation in Ruthenia to the making of the college gardens. 30 11 04a

1930 11 25

Never did learning of so weighty a nature sit so lightly on so smiling a personality as Miss Wood, principal of the Cambridge Training College for Post-graduate Women. She has a formidable list of classical achievements but proves that learning does not inevitably mean dullness. The College opened in two small cottages in Newnham Croft in 1885 and has provided hundreds of teachers for secondary schools in many parts of the Empire. 30 11 25

1930 12 01

The sensational Fen Ditton case when a woman was accused of keeping a disorderly house will be sent back to be heard by magistrates. Police had kept watch on a room called the dance hall where it was alleged acts of immorality took place; some women were held upside down and couples found in very suggestive attitudes. The men were Cambridge undergraduates and the girls of the working-class type but there was no evidence of prostitution. 30 12 01d

1930 12 08

The Home of Mercy in Christchurch Street, Cambridge has been more or less full of girls, almost all aged between 16 and 20. Seventeen girls had been admitted and ten provided with outfits and placed in domestic service. Five have been baptised, six confirmed and three restored to Holy Communion while two girls formerly in the home have been well married. The chapel had been redecorated and beautified. There were fewer illegitimate births but the moral standard of the country had broken down and a very large number of outwardly respectable women were morally corrupt. 30 12 08a-c

1931 01 02

Christmas Day festivities at the Home of Mercy in Christchurch Street, Cambridge were spent in the usual manner. The chapel was decorated with lilies and carnations presented by two of the married girls as a mark of appreciation. Everyone attended Christ Church at 7 and 11 am and then enjoyed a bountiful dinner. Each girl found in her pudding a piece of money which is to be presented to Addenbrooke's Hospital building fund. Evensong was sung in chapel after which a pantomime (on the wireless) was enjoyed until the day came to a close at 9.30. 31 01 02e

1931 01 09

Lady Darwin, wife of Sir George the Professor of Astronomy, is an American with an interest in the feminine movement. In 1914 she wrote an article on policewomen; the idea of creating a female police corps created tremendous excitement and during the war a small number were appointed... She is very hospitable and is never happier than when her house, Newnham Grange, is full of guests, particularly American undergraduates. Her eldest daughter is Mrs Gwen Raverat, a distinguished wood-engraver. 31 01 09a

1931 02 13

Mrs Harold Gray of Wandlebury House was elected to the executive of the Women's Institute movement at the end of the war and started an Institute at Stapleford. She resigned when her husband became Member of Parliament for the county but was elected President when his term of office ended. She says it is a strong social instructive link between women of each village, irrespective of rank. She is a true Bohemian at heart and has crossed the desert on a camel and almost gone 'back to Nature' on the Cocos Islands in the Pacific. 31 02 13a

1931 03 06

Miss Enright came to Cambridge in 1924 to help in the reorganisation of the School of Arts, Crafts and Technology and became the first woman to be elevated to be head of a technical school in the UK. There were odd classes for unemployed boys and girls with 54 students, now the number in the Day Trade School has grown to 151. They train women in domestic science, needlework and simple home hygiene but few show much interest in so essential an art. 31 03 06a

1931 03 13

Every woman who plays hockey is proud of Miss Gaskell. In 1914 she took the first women's hockey team to Australia and has taken teams to the United States and South Africa. During the war she became Commandant of the Red Cross Convalescent Hospital for soldiers at St Chads that was open until 1919. She then started Barton W.I. and joined the Folk Dancing Society. 31 03 13a

1931 05 01

Mr J.W. Autherlonie, manager of the Cambridge University and Town Gas Light Company since 1902 has seen many changes. During the Great War 70 women worked there, doing exactly the same hard tasks as the absent men. But on the return of the men they retired and today only one is engaged in this capacity. Eighteen of the employees fell and the war memorial, placed in a garden surrounding the works, is counted amongst the best of its type. 31 05 01a

1931 06 05

Miss Borne, the greatly respected and loved Matron of 'Papworth' belongs to the rapidly decreasing band of women who, in their early youth, were convinced they had a vocation, and in spite of opposition have managed to reach their goal. In 1914 she was appointed as Cambridgeshire Tuberculosis Health Visitor and when Dr Varrier Jones began to put his theories into practice she was invited to join him. She went to Bourn as matron of the six-roomed cottage in which the great work came into being. In February 1918 the 15 patients were removed to Papworth Hall. Last week there were 338 under treatment. 31 06 05b

1931 06 12

Mrs Keynes elected first woman alderman – 31 06 12aa

1931 07 17

A Cambridge women resident in Salmon Lane, off Fair Street, told the court she went out for a bottle of stout when another punched her in the mouth and tore the sleeve of her dress. "I have had to endure this life for two years", she said. "Each time I go out of my house I'm insulted because I'm a respectable married woman & won't mix with them". She denied that she'd hit her husband and cut his head open or that her baby kept neighbours awake with its crying. 31 07 17e

1931 07 31

A serious accident occurred during a performance by Capt. Barnard's aerial circus at Port Holme, Huntingdon following a passenger flight. A young woman had just been up for a trip and, on alighting, walked around the wings into the revolving propeller. The blade struck her left shoulder, smashing the bone. It was not revolving at great speed, otherwise she would have been killed outright. The force of the blow stopped the propeller instantly. Despite the mishap the programme of aeronautics continued and the passenger flights proved very popular. 31 07 31a

1931 11 13

The reopening of the Oakington Women's Institute was celebrated by a social and dance. Music was provided by Mrs E.C. Papworth at the piano and Mr Boutellier's jazz band was very much appreciated. The competition cake was won by Miss Francis and the mysterious competition for gentlemen by Mr W. Elmore. Oakington ladies should be proud that their menfolk took a great interest in the movement. 31 11 13l

1932 04 11

A woman had a narrow escape from injury when the pavement blew up as she was walking down Fitzroy Street. She had almost passed the 'Fitzroy Arms' when an electrical junction blew opposite Williamson's shop sending a shower of stones into the air. Smoke coming out of the cracked pavement turned into a sheet of flame six foot high after a man threw a bucket of water on it. 32 04 11

1932 05 28

Sensational disclosures are expected in connection with a fivefold shooting tragedy. While the shooting was taking place a girl operator in the telephone exchange was listening to it, powerless to help. The dead woman was in the act of putting through a telephone call. Before the bullet entered her head she had taken off the receiver which was found hanging on its wire when the police entered the house. 32 05 28

1932 06 18

The Stokesay Laundry of Histon Road is a happy hive of industry where women and girls work under ideal conditions in a healthy atmosphere. They have installed a wonderful ironing machine which is the last word in efficiency. The extensive drying grounds in a very large garden ensure final cleanliness and sweetness. 32 06 18 & 18a

1932 07 15

The Duke and Duchess of York opened Papworth Village Settlement's Women's Hospital which provides accommodation with the personal appurtenances of a private bed-sitting room so that each of the 62 patients may enjoy cheerful, colourful surroundings in her fight for health. Then they journeyed on to Addenbrooke's Hospital to open a new wing for children. 32 07 15a & b

1932 10 21

Coton Women's Institute was formed in 1923 and five years later they'd decided to build a new hall. A piece of land was acquired from Mr Edwards on very favourable terms and a sub-committee of men formed to help with the building. The contract was given to Mr E. Peacock at a total cost of about £300. Now it was open and their grand-daughters would enjoy the amenities of the fine Institute. 32 10 21b (pic 32 10 28f)

1932 12 23

Former Mayoress, Mrs Catherine Tillyard was an accomplished yet humble woman. Under the pen-name of 'Pertelote' she contributed a women's column when her husband edited the Cambridge Independent Press. Her daughter, Aelfrida, is an authoress of some distinction and her son, Eustace, has a number of important books to his credit. She belonged to the old aristocratic school, worshipped at St Columba's and took an active interest in the temperance cause. 32 12 23e

1933 02 18

A woman sued a Cambridge dentist after he broke her jaw. She told the court she was a trained masseuse and had carried on business in Cambridge for some years earning about £4 a week. She'd gone to have a wisdom tooth extracted under anaesthetic but when she 'came round' the dentist said "Do you know what bad luck we've had. Your jaw has gone". After hearing the details the court adjourned for lunch. 33 02 18a & b

1933 01 07

Woman dead in river after engagement broken – 33 01 07a

1933 08 18

A tragedy occurred at the weekly meeting of the Women's Mission at March Station Road Methodist church when the reader collapsed and passed away. She was the oldest member of the church and it was a tragic coincidence that she met her death at the scene of so many hours of her loving labour for the cause. Several of the lady members were so overcome as to have to receive medical treatment before being able to proceed home. 33 08 18b

1933 05 18

Cambridge Mothercraft Clinic gives information and teaching which saves women many hours of anxiety and babies many terrible pains. They have held classes for expectant mothers and six have come to the clinic for help and advice. It is open two days a week and has seen 160 attendances but needs 360 people to pay a guinea a year to cover expenses. 33 05 18 a & b

1933 05 22

The 1931 census report shows a population increase in Cambridgeshire of seven percent since 1921. The number of married women has increased assisted by the high marriage rate in recent years, despite the prevailing economic depression. The net result of all the new building, structural alteration and demolition has seen the number of dwellings rise by 13.7 per cent and the instances of 'overcrowding' has reduced notwithstanding a large increase in the numbers of families. 33 05 22c

1933 06 16

Community and Labour opinions were so divided at a conference in Burleigh Street that a proposal to form a Cambridge Anti-War Council had to be adjourned after three hours. The University Anti-War Council said workers in Cambridge laboratories had been organised against war. Mrs Foster of the Women's Co-operative Guild wondered who were being prepared as the next enemy of Britain. It used to be the French, then the defenceless Boers and last of all the Germans. She appealed to women to play their part against the wickedness of war before the catastrophe arrived. 33 06 16 & b

1933 07 26

The reputation which Cambridge enjoys as the home of many women prominent in public life has been enhanced by the appointment of a new secretary of the University Lodging Houses Syndicate. Miss Mary Kennett is the daughter of the late Professor of Hebrew. She trained at Guy's Hospital and her knowledge of hygiene will be valuable when she inspects the houses licensed to accommodate undergraduates. 33 07 26

1933 11 07

Mrs Keynes 2nd woman Mayor review of year – 33 11 07

1933 12 09

Police women were urgently needed in Huntingdonshire: they were useful in taking statements from women and children in sexual crimes and were on duty near schools to protect children from molestation. But the Rev O'Connor thought an unhealthy sex obsession had intruded into every aspect of life today and this should be exorcised rather than appoint women police officers. The Chief Constable said there was very little sexual crime and no work for women officers to perform. 33 12 09

1934 01 08

Thousands of people lined both sides of St Andrew's Street when the Queen and Duchess of York paid a private visit to Mr Woolston's antique shop where the Queen chose several tiny ivory objects for her famous doll's house. She also inspected the Cambridge Tapestry Company's premises in Thompson's Lane where they watched the women workers actually engaged at the canvas and saw the tapestry panelling now being made for Lord Fairhaven, depicting his seat at Anglesey Abbey. 34 01 08

1934 02 02

Kirby & son, woman builder and contractor, bankruptcy. 34 02 02

1934 07 30

It is only a year since Sir Hugh and Lady Ripley went to reside at Brinkley Hall but they have been instrumental in making village life much brighter. They have formed branches of the Women's Institute and British Legion and held a garden fete to raise funds with cocoanut shies, Aunt Sally, bowling for a pig, clock golf, treasure hunt and darts. There was a lady whose dress contained 100

pockets in which there were presents while Monty the Dalmatian invited people to guess the number of his spots. Haverhill Co-operative band played for dancing on the lawn in the evening. 34 07 30

1934 09 22

Life in the University would not be complete without humour, Ald Tweedy told a dinner. He mentioned a professor who was lecturing on a part of the world where men greatly outnumbered the women. "I believe that even the young women of Girton and Newnham would be able to find husbands there", he said. As a protest all the members of these colleges rose and turned to go out. "Wait a minute", said the Professor. "There's no hurry. The boat doesn't go till Friday". 34 09 22

1934 11 12

Until recently it was customary for some of the Cambridge Corporation documents to be in the private possession of the town clerk. When Thomas Yorke died in 1756 he had a large quantity of treasurer's accounts in his possession. His executor put them into a chest in St Michael's Church for safe keeping, but then he died and nobody claimed them. They did not belong to the parish and when space was wanted the clerk was authorised to sell them as waste paper. John Bowtell, the University bookbinder, bought the whole lot, Dr Palmer told the Women's Luncheon Club. They were now preserved in Downing College. 34 11 12a & b

1934 12 09

County Council plans to erect a new Poor Law Institution at Doddington were condemned by Ely Ratepayers who would to fight to the last to preserve the Tower House as the Ely Institution. It was wicked to take old people to a different district and expect their friends to visit them at some expense. Where men and women had lived together for fifty or sixty years it was a scandal that the men should have to go one way and the women another. 34 12 09

1934 12 09

In George Stace's new showrooms Christmas shoppers can choose gifts for the womenfolk in comfort. A splendid stock of furs, dresses, gloves and handkerchiefs may be found. The Rycroft Rubber Company have tempting lines in stockings in either the silk or fish-net styles together with some very diverting surprises in the way of Christmas jokes while hot water bottles are a very acceptable gift. Legerton's well-stocked establishment offers a comprehensive range of children's wear, from the tiny tot upwards. Hosiery and underwear are featured in great variety together with jumpers and house coats. 34 12 09a

1935 03 27

Coad's new store, beside Woolworth's in Sidney Street, with its new arcade and island cases is a glowing example of the shop fitter's craft. There are now three floors and the splendid oak-panelled stairway has been retained. The fashion salons are already quite famous for their remarkable values in coats, woollies and blouses and the millinery salon is well lit. At the farther end lies the Lingerie and Corsetry Salon and a Younger Ladies' Department where the woman to today can shop like mother does. 35 03 27a

1935 06 11

Catherine Parsons said people believed that midnight was the hour when ghosts would be seen. No one would pass the Roman road crossing to Streetley End for fear of being pelted with large things like apple dumplings. But Horseheath ghosts were quite harmless and included a poor girl whose coming was heralded by a sound like buzzing bees, three headless women dressed in black who wandered in from Camps and a headless man with a red handkerchief around his neck. The finest spectacle was a coffin borne up Limbery's Hill followed by a long procession of mourners. 35 06 11 & a

1935 09 02

A widow, married woman and a waiter were charged with procuring a miscarriage. The man said a girl arrived in Cambridge and told him she wanted something done. He went to Mrs S—who said she

knew a woman to go to. There was only one thing that might be effective. It would cost £3. But Mrs D--- said she'd been only paid £1.10s for what she had done. 35 09 02

1935 11 02

Isleham woman drowned in water butt – 35 11 02

1935 11 19

The first of a series of lectures on 'Sex Guidance' were given by the Welfare of Youth. An excellent audience of young women greeted the lecturer who, with blackboard, lantern slides and cine films demonstrated her subject in a most graphic way. The meeting for young men attracted fewer people to a talk on the evolution of sex. But those who attended were equally appreciative 35 11 19a

1936 01 15

Debate on Women's Suffrage in 1910, the first time an inter-college debate opened by a woman – 36 01 15 b & c

1936 02 06

The Cambridge University Mummers, who are still the only University Dramatic Society to admit women members equally with men in all their activities, are presenting 'Heartbreak House' by Bernard Shaw. In the cast there are four members of Newnham, the most prominent of whom is Miss Teresa Mayor. She will be supported by Beryl Eeman, Cecilia Hopkinson and Deirdre Moore. The play will be produced by George Rylands who is well known for productions at the A.D.C. 36 02 06a

1936 03 26

Cambridge Beauty Spa is probably the most up-to-date and best equipped of its kind in the country with expert assistants, modern appliances and the best of materials. Zotofoam Baths ensure Cambridge is not behind in the now-awakened national cult of health and beauty. By deep cleaning of the pores they clear the system of poisonous secretions. Aches and stiffness gives way to supple firmness, unwanted weight is pleasurable sweated away and the skin is made clear with real skin-deep beauty – Advert 36 02 15b Modern living with its flats, bungalows and almost stream-lined houses, can no longer accommodate the fine old heavy furniture of our ancestors. Today the cult is for comfort and utility in limited space so Robert Sayle has equipped their basement to show this new furniture. Here you can see complete rooms set out with wallpaper decoration, carpets, curtains, lamps and all the etceteras which make a house a home. There is even a little nursery that is wallpapered with a new type of American cloth which is washable and most hygienic. What home-proud woman will want to refuse such advice? – Advert 36 03 26

1936 04 04

The Policewoman's Review includes an article in praise of policewomen by Cambridge Councillor Mrs Rackham. The main obstacles to an increase in their numbers are prejudice against women police constables and ignorance of the work they perform. 36 04 04

1936 04 27

"This country will never be saved by young men with permanently waved hair. They may be mother's darlings and favourites of the girls, but they will never be any good to the country because he is a 'she-man' and the country will never be saved by 'she-men'. Women are all very well, but they should know their place and the danger of the present day is that there is too much feminism about. A man has got to be prepared to stick up for his own. The Territorial Army is preferable to spending evenings in cinemas and smoking round corners", the Cambridgeshire Regiment Old Comrades were told. 36 04 27a

1936 05 23

A March grocer told the court the amazing story of a gipsy woman's threat. The accused was a pedlar who lived in a caravan and had nine children. She started telling his fortune, said he had an enemy and that she could prevent curses being put upon him providing he gave her money. This affected his

mind and he parted with £50. Eventually a policeman hid behind the glass case in the shop and heard the woman threaten to put a curse on him if he did not fill her basket with groceries. 36 05 23 & a

1936 06 02

Cambridge Training College for Women celebrated its Jubilee. It had started in two cottages at Newnham when Miss Hughes, the principal, was the sole staff and lectured on every subject. Early staff, if they did receive their salaries, paid them back into the college in some way until the new buildings were started. When it moved into Queen Anne Terrace 1,000 guests gathered in a marquee for the ceremony. So great was the crush that those who were to sit on the platform could only get to it through a hole cut in the marquee. 36 06 02 & a

1936 06 04

“I never let people pose” said Mrs Lettice Ramsey at an exhibition of modern photography. Her Solarised photographs are striking and new, giving the effect of charcoal drawing, while the unusual angle in the beautiful picture of Mrs Victor Rothschild is becoming as well as arresting. But the child studies are the most interesting: none of the usual sentimental darlings, but vigorous, animated children, almost walking out of their frames. Feminine sitters appreciate a women photographer’s experience in matters of clothes and hair dressing while men – often vainer than women – can be flattered into good humour. Here is something new and original in photographic technique 36 06 04b

1936 08 22

Cambridge has sent its sons and daughters to places all over the world. Miss Freda Mary Sennitt, 27-year-old daughter of F.O. Sennitt of Milton Road, received training in nursing and midwifery and has now been appointed to the charge of one of the hospitals in Nigeria under the Methodist Missionary Society. She will be the only white woman at the hospital where her first spell of duty, owing to the climate and conditions, will be for only 18 months. 36 08 22d

1936 09 03

When John Brown took charge of Freeman, Hardy & Willis shop on Market Hill in 1897 boots were cheap, and needed to be: “I can remember country women coming in with a dozen children and saying their husbands only earned twelve shillings a week”. When he started brown boots were so scarce that people stopped and gazed at someone who sported a pair in Peterborough. Most had hob nails in the sole – even those for infants - and women wore elastic-sided boots – it didn’t matter what they wore, because you never saw their feet. The shop was enlarged into premises next door in 1905 36 09 03a

1936 11 14

Woman council bailiff appointed – 36 11 14a

1936 11 25

An airman challenged the validity of his marriage to a Cambridge woman. He claimed that her former husband, a Cambridge taxi driver, had gone to Canada after getting into financial difficulties. But had still been alive when the two married at Kensington Register Office, though the woman told him she was a widow. As a result the airman had refused to live with her until she produced evidence of the first husband’s death. The woman however petitioned for the restitution of her conjugational rights. She lost her case 36 11 25a

1937 01 01

Dr Paul Dirac was appointed as-old Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University in 1932 a few days before his 30th birthday, becoming the youngest occupant of this famous chair which was once occupied by Isaac Newton, and remains the youngest professor in Cambridge. He has a reputation for being of a particularly shy and retiring disposition.” A London newspaper stated: “More than publicity he fears women. He has no interest in them and even after being introduced to them cannot remember whether they are pretty or plain”. He has now wed in London. The marriage was

unexpected in Cambridge and even his colleagues at St John's College were unaware of the ceremony. 37 01 07

1937 01 12

Albert Stubbs told the Agricultural Wages Board that farmers must pay workers a living wage or they would not get the labour. The minimum should be £2 for a working week of 48 hours. Rates for horse-keepers, cowmen and shepherds should be seven shillings more while women should earn from five to seven pence an hour. He would advise the men to take work on the roads or aerodromes where pay was higher. Young men would cycle 12-15 miles into Cambridge where they could earn more. But farmers had had a monstrous year and could not afford it. 37 01 12 & a

1937 07 10

The B.S.A. Company's offer of a brand new bicycle to Britain's oldest woman cyclist has brought several responses. Mrs Mortimer of Chedworth Street is 63; she has ridden a cycle since she was 10 and has toured Ireland, Scotland and much of England on it. Mrs F. Plumb of Gt Shelford is 68 and delivers fruit grown in her garden to Cambridge every day. But the oldest so far is Mrs Cross of Brookside, Toft, who was born at Tydd St Mary's in 1856 and still rides regularly. 37 07 10a

1937 07 22

The Home of Mercy in Christchurch Street is one of the oldest Rescue and Preventive Homes in the country. Miss Meeking, who completed 29 years as manager, had a remarkable understanding of the young girls; many sent to her as 'hopeless cases' were restored to self-respect and received a fresh start in life. In the Home she was affectionately known as 'Mam', but there was no weak sentimentality in her treatment of the girls and she fully understood the need of firmness and discipline. She knew that when they left the shelter of the Home they would meet many difficulties and kept in touch with scores of girls. She was consulted frequently by other moral welfare workers and recognised as a wide and sympathetic counsellor 37 07 22a

1937 07 31

The appeal for pioneer women cyclists heard from Dorothea Conybeare. Her father, Rev Edward Conybeare of Barrington, had bought her sister a bike on 28 July 1893. By 1894 women's bicycles still rather unusual and fellow Perseans were much impressed when they'd cycled in from Barrington in order to be present at an examination for which the train would have been too late. She does not remember seeing any Cambridge women or girls bicycling before 1893 but saw two during a visit to Leicestershire in 1892 and was agreeably surprised by their grace and dignity 37 07 31a

1937 08 14

More ladies have come forward in the search for Britain's oldest women cyclists. Mrs Cross of Toft (81) still rides her ordinary lady's bike regularly while Annie Long of Withersfield (75) has a machine she bought in 1898. Mrs N. Plint of Gt Shelford rides into Cambridge each day to deliver fruit grown in her garden & Mrs H. Ball of Staploe (68) also bikes five miles a day to work. Mrs L.M. Mortimer (63) of Chedworth Street is one of the most consistent riders, having done thousands of miles since she was ten years of age. 37 08 14a

1938 01 11

Mr W. King showed three of his films at the Dorothy Café. The first dealing with the fen floods of 1937 had been seen before but the others were new. One showing the inspection of the Cambridgeshire Regiment by General Kirke caught the spectacle admirably: the marching of the Territorials was transferred to the screen in colour and many town and county notabilities were seen. Another showed the demonstration given by the Cambridge Women's Physical Culture Club, concentrating on the beauty and grace of their movement and showing the great advance they have made in the art of keeping fit by easy, pleasure-giving exercises. 38 01 11a

1938 01 15

The LNER is going to make a big effort to ensure that the interior of their trains is kept up to drawing room standard. A staff of travelling train attendants and cleaners is to be appointed who will accompany the train throughout the whole journey. They will ensure an adequate supply of clean towels and soap in the lavatories, remove litter from corridors, dust window ledges and empty ashtrays in compartments not occupied by passengers. When trains stop at stations they will polish up the outside door handles. Where conditions are suitable women will be appointed for this work as it is felt that the feminine touch will yield the most satisfactory results. 38 01 15a

1938 02 02 c

About 200 members of Joe Davis' billiards club in Mill Road, Cambridge, watched an exhibition by Miss Joyce Gardiner, six times the world's woman billiards champion who was paying her first visit to the hall. A stylist, she was watched with rapt attention all through her demonstration. Her highest break in an exhibition is 213 but in practice she has made one of over 300.

1938 04 22

Mrs Ethel Robinson, described as "Hinxton's Lady Bountiful" has died. She came to live with her husband at Hinxton Hall in 1917 and took an active interest in village life, being connected with the Mothers' Union and Women's Conservative Association. Every Christmas she entertained the children at the Hall and extended similar hospitality to the old folk in the New Year. She ran a clothing and coal club and was a willing supporter of anything which had as its object the benefit of the village. 38 04 22b funeral 38 04 26

1938 06 01

Mrs Margaret Heitland, the well-known worker for women's causes was the daughter of the Master of St John's. She became secretary of the Cambridge suffrage society in 1884, an interest she continued all her life. She was a member of the Women's Industrial Council, travelling extensively in Europe studying the conditions in factories and writing articles in many periodicals. During the war she served on the Cambridge Women's War Employment and the Belgian Hospitality Committees. Later she helped establish the Cambridge Women Citizens' Association which has played an important part in local politics 38 06 01b

1938 06 03

West Dereham woman acquitted of poisoning husband – 38 06 03

1938 09 28

Ladies lead the war – women with respirators picture – 38 09 28

1938 11 12

Mrs F.A. Keynes has rendered magnificent service to Cambridge council; her election for Fitzwilliam Ward in 1914 followed the passing of the County and Borough Councils Qualification Bill. Previously a married woman, although otherwise qualified, could not be a councillor, whereas an unmarried woman could be. Mrs Keynes was largely instrumental in persuading the Government to alter this state of affairs and it was fitting that she should be among the first women in the country to be elected. She was elected first woman alderman of Cambridge in 1931. 38 11 12

1938 11 26

Collins' Agency, High-Class Registry for Servants at 55 Regent Street has been established in Cambridge for over 28 years and now has offices in Bridge Street, at Peterborough and Chelmsford. The extent of the business is shown by the fact that in 1937 more than 1,500 ladies were suited with maids in spite of the great dearth of servants. Collins' Agency advertisements regularly appear in Cambridge newspapers 38 11 26

1938 12 10

The Home of Mercy dates back to 1836 when residents concerned about the lack of provision for women, hired Dover House in East Road as a place of refuge. Then in 1838 the Cambridge Female Refuge opened in Christchurch Street in which girls who have fallen into evil ways can receive Christian guidance and discipline in a home-like atmosphere. Last year nine left to go into service and four were returned to their parents. One was baptised and three received Confirmation. 38 12 10b & c

1938 12 14

Councillor Dorothy Thirza Stephenson worked for women's causes; elected Board of Guardians 1912, councillor 1919. Original member of Cambridge Housing Society, founder Hundred Housing Society, organised soldiers' canteen during war, Chesterton National Kitchen Committee, Belgian refugee and communal pig keeping committee 38 12 14 38 12 15

1939 01 12

Much opposition to women taking holy orders came from a spirit of trade unionism among the clergy, a conference at Ridley Hall was told.. The present position was illogical: women were allowed to give addresses, but seldom to preach and were not permitted to use the pulpit. The ministry of the Sacrament was denied, the priesthood was forbidden. Women had intelligence and wit worthy to be matched against the finest masculine brains and had to receive the opportunity to make full use of their God-given powers. But if they came crowding into the church it would bring competition for male clergy – a job that though poorly paid was safe and still fairly respectable. 39 01 12

1939 03 14

There are too few women councillors in Cambridge, said Mrs Hartree. Political parties have had the wisdom to put forward women candidates but it was better to be independent. 39 03 14

1939 03 28

Cambridge members of the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence are being trained as ambulance and car drivers. A feature of the classes is tuition in driving in the dark in gas masks and without lights and in changing wheels, fuses etc under the same conditions. This instruction is being given by Mr North of Messrs Marshall's, Jesus Lane. Women wishing to enrol for this important National Service should apply to the W.V.S., Old Post Office, St Andrew's Street - 39 03 28

1939 05 12

Miss Dorothy Annie Elizabeth Garrod, of Newnham College, was elected the first woman professor at Cambridge University - women are not officially members of the university and have no gowns. Miss Garrod, who is an archaeologist of distinction, was educated at both Oxford and Cambridge, and succeeds Dr. E. H. Minns, of Pembroke College in the Disney Professorship of Archaeology 39 05 06, 39 05 12 CIPof [1.1] 39 05 06

1939 07 08

Women farm workers wages – 39 07 08a

1939 07 13

N.F.U. meeting: women to be trained for Land Army – 39 07 13

1939 08 28

There are to be two anti-aircraft batteries and one anti-aircraft signalling unit based in Cambridge. Recruiting for the batteries opens at 45 Parkside and Salisbury Villas for the signalling unit. Cambridge has already responded to the call for National Service. The Cambridgeshire Regiment is over establishment, the Royal Engineers unit, 2nd General Hospital and the Cambridge National Defence Company are complete. A second Auxiliary Territorial Service (clerical) company for women will also be raised. 39 08 28

1930 10 05

Dressmaker, hairdresser, dancing expert, officer clerk, shop assistant and television worker. All these are working side by side potato picking, milking cows, muck spreading and clearing out pigsties at the Cambridge University Farm on Huntingdon Road. The girls are members of the Women's Land Army undergoing a month's training before being sent to work for farmers. The majority are in their late teens and early twenties but some are older. One has her two grown-up daughters with her; her son and his brother are doing their bit in the Tank Corps in France. 39 10 05

1939 11 25

Soldiers and women window cleaners, WWI photo – 39 11 25a

1939 11 28

Something should be done about the housing of old people: the number of old people is growing out of all proportion to the number of children and people of working age, Cambridge Women's Luncheon Club was told. In the old days people with nobody to look after them had to go to an institution. Now most live with relations but are not wanted, cause overcrowding, are treated as unpaid nurses and servants and appreciated very little. Some live in attic rooms in other people's houses with no water or cooking arrangements. It would be better to convert middle-class houses for them where they could form some sort of community. 39 11 28b

1940 03 05

War service for women in 1914-18 and today contrasted – 40 03 05b

1940 04 25

Soldiers ... Family Association will get illegitimate children of serving men adopted and made weekly allowance while process takes place – 40 04 25b

1940 10 31

Nazis Surrender to Woman. — When a Junkers 88 bomber was shot down: at Stuntney, near Ely, on Wednesday afternoon, two occupants, aged about 18 to 20, threw down their revolvers and gave themselves up to a woman, who was the first person on the scene. The two other members of the crew, who had baled out by parachute, were captured in Soham Fen and taken to Newmarket. The machine had been badly damaged by R.A.F. fighters and was finished off by another fighter. The Nazi pilot crashed on Mr. Owen Ambrose's farm at Quanea Fen. Later, Mr. Ambrose told a reporter "The plane touched down in a ploughed field, jumped a ditch and came to rest in a beet field. The first person on the scene was Mrs. Ashman, who lives at the farm. As she approached the two men, they emptied their revolvers and threw them away. Other men from the farm came up and the Germans were driven away in a lorry by Mr. Brooks – 40 10 31

1940 11 13

Woman bombed out of her house in London left her furniture in cottage at Coton and refused to leave – 40 11 13a

1940 12 11

Sharing the kitchen stove – evacuation – a woman's point of view – 40 12 11a

1940 12 19

Women help sort & deliver mail at Post Office – photo – 40 12 19a

1940 12 23

Trumpington first-aid post opened – 40 12 23a

1940 12 23

Post women WWI – group photo – 40 12 23b

1941 01 29

Engineers in the making – Technical college courses, demand for women workers – 41 01 29a & b

1941 04 18

London Comes to Cheveley.—"The Rectory in the village of Cheveley (Cambs.) must be among the handsomest property now used by Friends." So states a note (says Watchman) in a recent "News" sheet issue by the Society of Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee, which announces that towards the close of last month this rectory was occupied by mothers and children from Stepney and Limehouse. These folk were selected from East End shelters in which the Friends work. Most of the women had been to the country before — they returned because they could not stand living in other people's houses and the separation from their London friends. And they have come to Cheveley because they had been allowed to take some of their own essential furniture with them and live in a community of their London neighbours. To help them to make up their minds about coming, a film of Cheveley was made and shown in the shelters—which strikes me as being extremely accommodating, to say the least. "The scheme," says the 'News' note "would never have come into operation without the advice, help and encouragement of a Cheveley resident. Mrs Morriss, whose horse won the Derby a few years ago." There is, I believe, a similar 'Friends' centre at Wood Ditton for bombed-out people.

1941 04 19

Women register at Senate House with 1920 class – the first batch to be called under the Government new Registration for employment Order – 41 04 19

1941 05 19

Women's Institutes war work; food production – 41 05 19a

1941 10 04

Women, war and victory campaign – 41 10 04a

1941 10 20

Women shoot with Home Guard – photo – 41 10 20a

1941 12 18

Women make camouflage netting; two-hour shifts of 50 women work till 10pm – 41 12 18

1942 01 28

Hunts Women's Institutes make 15,000lbs of jam – 42 01 28

1942 02 06

Cambridge leave hostel for serving women opened Rose Crescent – 42 02 06a

1942 02 20

New Cambridge YWCA Hostel opened for women in forces – 42 02 20

1942 02 24

Women's war work bureau set up in Eaden Lilley's store – 42 02 24

1942 02 26

How the 'Call-up' affects the women of Britain: an official explanation – 42 02 26

1932 07 27

National Fire Service – women train at Homerton – 42 07 27

1942 09 19

Women to register for fire-watching duty – 42 09 19

1942 10 05

Women to undertake vital work – advert – 42 10 05

1942 10 30

Road crash victims. — The inquest on two women munitions workers, who were knocked down and fatally injured by an Army vehicle at Snailwell on Saturday night, was opened and adjourned at Snailwell School on Tuesday afternoon. Owing to injury to the driver of the vehicle, only evidence of identification was heard. The accident happened about 9 p.m. on Saturday, and the women were cycling along Snailwell Road, Snailwell, towards Newmarket at the time. The vehicle was travelling in the same direction

1943 01 04

Civil training plane, piloted by a woman, failed to take off from a local flying field at Cambridge and crashed into house, three trapped, pilot killed. House previously occupied by the head of the firm operating the flying field – 43 01 04, 43 01 06a

1943 01 13

Hostel for civilian women stranded in Cambridge may be established – 43 01 13

1943 02 10

Fanny Johnson, 87, notable lady, organised amateur plays, suffragist, Women's International League, Labour Party member, wrote play Earth and her children – 43 02 10b

1943 06 18

District Nurse, - Nurse F.M. White, the district nurse, has left the village (Whittlesford) to take up a senior nursing post in the Midlands. She was a much-loved nurse, and untiring in her efforts for the villagers. To mark the villagers' appreciation of her services, an impromptu collection, was arranged by Mrs. Saunders and over 100 people subscribed. A cheque for £10 was presented to her, together with a list of subscribers, by two of her old patients, Miss Agnes and Miss Sarah Twinn.

1943 06 18

"Going to be a bit late Home," -The following message was sent by Second Lieut. Charles Roland Brown, T190473 (a prisoner of war) to his wife, Marjorie Dodd Brown, 31 Trafalgar Road, Cambridge, over the German radio: "Hello, Marjorie darling. I am afraid I am going to be a bit late home. Complications seem to have arisen, so I thought I would spend the time in Germany. It is really a pretty country ... But even though I am far away, my body will be absent, but you will have my heart. Remember the Browns always smile. The German frauleins are pretty, but I am socially confined, so you don't have to worry."

1943 06 18

Growing Land Army,—At the end of May, the Women's Land Army numbered 65,406 strong. Over 19,000 were in direct employ of the County War Agricultural Executive Committees and nearly 3,700 were engaged on forestry work. May showed a net increase of 3,626 in the total number employed. There are, however, still many vacancies to be filled.

1943 07 09

Women's Land Army Parade. — Nearly 300 members of the Women's Land Army from the County of Cambridge paraded before the Duchess of Gloucester at a W.L.A. rally at Cambridge on Saturday afternoon. Clad in their distinctive green and fawn uniforms, the women made an impressive sight as they marched through the town from Parker's Piece to the Guildhall, where the Duchess presented awards for good service. Her Royal Highness wore a summer dress in pink and white, with a white summer hat and gloves to match

1943 12 06

Queues outside Mothercraft Clinic, Willis Road, for toys made by the women whose children attend the clinic – photo – 43 12 06

1944 04 03

YWCA Hostel in Lensfield Road opened – two roomy houses standing side by side; the old hostel in Rose Crescent outgrown; many hundreds had stayed in earlier years of the war. Can now accommodate 65 service women; 1,400, including Land Army have stayed. 44 04 03

1944 04 28

A Medicine Woman's Garden.— A correspondent (writes Watchman) sends me the following note, written by an old lady now over 80 years of age. "I have read about 'medicine' or 'wise women' in villages. When a little girl I lived in a Cambridgeshire village and next door to an old woman said to be a witch and a fortune-teller, also a maker of ointment and pills. She was very ugly and much wrinkled, but I will not name her or the village, because some of her family are still living. I used to run errands for her, and go with her for walks, as she was very old. She had a garden full of wild flowers, most of which she is said to have used in her ointments, etc. I was always fond of plants and flowers, and knew her garden well. Some of the things she had, if I remember rightly were foxgloves, fennel, featherfew, coltsfoot, dandelion, sowthistle, periwinkle, wood sage, rosemary, mouse-ear, marigolds, and, of course, rhubarb and common nettles. In our walks in the fields she would take a bag and collect, when in season, cowslips, male fern, red clover, bark from oak and alder trees, also the leaves of the white violet and horse chestnut. A doctor came in a gig only when sent for and when children had a rash, pimples, bumps and minor aches and pains, they were taken to the old medicine woman for treatment and parents appeared to" be perfectly satisfied."

1944 10 20

Woman jailed. — A woman, who lived for three years with a man, left him and married his son, and four years later bigamously married an American soldier, was sent to prison by Mr. Justice Singleton at Cambs. Assizes on Monday on a bigamy charge. It was stated that the woman introduced her real husband to the American as her son', and that the husband referred to his wife as "Mum." Accused was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment — nine months on the bigamy charge and six months for stealing and receiving a wallet containing £20 and papers.

1944 10 26

All Saints church new windows in honour of womanhood – 44 10 26

1944 11 10

21st Birthday party. The Haslingfield Women's Institute celebrated its 21st anniversary with a birthday party on November 7. Each member was invited to bring along a friend, and the President welcomed ten members of Comberton W.I. A card of greeting and congratulations was received from Lady Denman. A varied programme of games, competitions and sketches was arranged by the entertainments committee.

1945 01 13

Woman drives Cambridge bus – Mrs Atkinson from Fulbourn – 45 01 13

1945 07 07

Woman shot through heart by coloured sentry at American camp in Milton Road; said she had spent the night in the camp, called guard names, refused to stop – 45 07 07

1945 07 28

Lady Bragg may stand for council and might be elected mayor – have been two women Mayors – Mrs Hartree 1924-25 & Mrs Keynes 1932-3 - 45 07 28

1945 09 15

Falcon Club for War Workers were set up for women, now open doors to civilians – 45 09 15

1946 03 13

Richara Morrow-Tait completes flying test for Air Ministry A Licence; has flown solo and will shortly attempt some long distance solo flights. Is first woman pupil to fly alone since war stopped civilian flying – 46 03 02a; photo – 46 03 13

1946 08 22

Haddenham woman, Doris Blake, and German PoW Alexander Todt – he formerly from Africa Corps working at Chivers Farm, Aldreth, she from 'The Retreat' Sand Lane; found on yacht in channel – 46 08 22; in court – 46 08 24 & a; Todt returns Ely PoW camp – 46 08 26b

1946 12 12

Business and Professional Women's Club established – 46 12 12

1947 03 11

"We all have our share of food and those who want more are greedy - and when they take illegal means to get extra it is something far more serious. A charwoman of Coldham's Lane heard these words from the chairman of Cambridge Borough Magistrates (Mr W.L. Briggs) at the Magistrates court when she was fined £2 and £3 respectively for stealing a ration book and using it when it was not issued to her. The defendant was 59 years old. On leaving school she took up domestic work. In the 1914-18 war she worked as a charwoman and was still employed as such. Her husband died two years ago and there were six in the family - all married with the exception of a daughter aged 18. Defendant's earnings, a widow's pension and an allowance from her daughter, amounted to £2 a week

1947 05 07

Some 200 local women took part in the Guildhall in the first big physical culture display to be held in Cambridge since before the war. It was a first-rate demonstration given by members of the Cambridge Women's Physical Culture Club, which is run by the Misses Marjorie and Mary Vinsen. In a display lasting and hour and a half they gave eloquent proof of the buoyant elasticity which can be attained through exercise and an indication of the physical fitness which results, for at the end of a strenuous performance they appeared as fresh as when they started.

1947 05 10

Cambridgeshire County Council made history today by electing its first woman chairman, and many friends will join in congratulations to Ald Mrs Clarke on the distinction accorded her. Mrs Clark is the first woman chairman of a County Council outside London.

1947 06 04

Although the Royal visit to Trinity College was mainly a University affair the women of Cambridge had an opportunity of seeing the Queen, aptly described during the recent Royal tour as British womanhood's ambassadress. The question, a natural one, many of the women were asking was "What was the Queen wearing". The Mayoress (Mrs F. Doggett) had the experience of waiting on the Queen almost throughout the day. She said that both the King and Queen asked many questions about the fen floods showing a real interest and sympathy in the difficulties of the flood victims. She was impressed by the Queen's great charm. "She was untiring and knew just what to say to everybody", she observed

1947 06 18

On Saturday, after a quarter of a century of service to the public Sergt Policewoman Carnegie Brown, one of the pioneers of women police, goes into retirement and the Cambridge Force loses its senior woman member and the Cambridge public a well-known figure. The history of women police has evolved during her lifetime. One of the earliest policewomen in the country, starting at a time when women police were not generally recognised by local authorities, Miss Brown has done much to override any prejudice that might have been held at the time and now has the satisfaction of knowing that women police are considered an essential part of the police service. In the early days women police did only welfare work, such as helping patch up matrimonial difficulties. Today they handle all matters connected with women and children who are involved in any way with the police

1947 07 30

History was made in the Shire Hall Council Chamber on Saturday, when Ald Mrs Mellish Clark, first woman chairman of the Cambridgeshire County Council, and of any County Council outside London, took the chair for the first time. She brought to it exactly the same degree of competence she brings to all meetings over which she presides, conducting the proceedings in a practical, business-like way, wasting no time on unessentials. She did not hesitate to call the meeting to order - doing this on two occasions when more than one tried to speak at the same time

1947 08 06

Only in cases of "exceptional hardship" can private householders hope to employ in domestic service the displaced persons now coming into the area to help relieve the labour shortage in certain industries. Since the beginning of June some 1,400 of these displaced persons have arrived from Germany at a West Wrating holding camp. Their nationalities are Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian and Ukrainian. Ages range from 25 to 40. The jobs woman can take include laundry work, domestic service in hospitals and hostels, and agriculture, and these are the sort of jobs they have taken in this region. Men, too have gone into agriculture. I understand that another camp accommodating about the same number will shortly be opened in Bottisham

1947 10 23

An assurance that there would be an improvement next year in the distribution of ration books was given at a meeting of the Cambridgeshire Federation of Women's Institutes. One member said their village was one of several small ones within varying distances of Bourn and at least six sent to Bourn to collect their ration books. "Imagine what happens", she said, "when the inhabitants of all these villages advance on the centre in the two days allowed". She quoted an instance of one mother, leaving a young baby in the house, queuing from 10 o'clock till 4.30 in the afternoon and then having to travel three miles home

1947 10 29

A notable honour in the world of fencing was won by a Cambridge girl when Miss Caroline Drew, aged 16, won the Schoolgirls' Foil Challenge Cup Competition held at the London Fencing Club - and brought the cup to Cambridge for the first time. Caroline is a pupil of the Cambridgeshire High School for Girls and a member of the Cambridge Ladies Fencing Club which was founded some 20 years ago has a membership of about 40, comprising girls and women of both University and town

1947 11 07

The President of the Coton Women's Institute said that such was the pressure on the present bus services from the village that housewives had to shop "by proxy". When people did eventually get into Cambridge they found "the cupboard bare". Mrs Burbage of Cambridge Road, Coton, said that people were often left behind and had to rely on motorists to give them a lift into Cambridge. The last time she travelled back on the 12.20 bus from Cambridge she said, "We were really packed in like sardines and I was really scared to travel"

1947 12 08

The word "Placet" (Latin for "It pleases") said by the Senior and Junior Proctors in unison as they raised their caps concluded the less-than-a-minute-long part of the Congregation in Cambridge Senate House by which it was formally agreed that women should have full status within the University. A handful of women students, undergraduates and other visitors in the gallery heard the decision made. It is planned that the new regulations shall come into force at the beginning of the next academic year in October; they will come under Proctorial supervision and will wear academic dress - 47 12 08

1947 12 08

University formally agree that women should have full status - 47 12 08

1948 05 04

The women students of Newnham and Girton will emerge in their New Look in the October term. The gowns which their full University status now entitles them to wear have now been designed, and are on sale at £3 3s. each, no coupons. They are identical with those of the men, except that they have closed sleeves instead of a slit at the opening. This is because it was felt it would be unsuitable to have bare arms showing in summer time, when the girls wear short sleeved dresses. As far as headwear is concerned stiff board was preferred to a soft cap, and squares have been decided upon. These are still in such short supply that most girls will, like the men, go bareheaded for the moment c48 05 04

1948 05 05

The experience of being stranded in a strange town, with nowhere to stay, is particularly unpleasant for young women. There must be many who, stranded in this way in Cambridge, have heard themselves being directed to the Bene't Hostel for Women which exists to provide such shelter. The hostel was started in Brooklands Avenue in 1943 to meet a wartime need and during the last year of hostilities 1,060 applications were received and the total number occupying beds was 8,265. Its continuing need being proved, a house was later bought at 1, Drosier Road where an average of 21 beds have been occupied nightly ever since

1948 06 04

A chapter of accident befell Miss Kay Stammers, one of Great Britain's two leading women tennis stars, when she went to Soham recently. The purpose of her visit was to "christen" a hard court presented to the town. Travelling from London by train Kay intended to get out at Cambridge, but overshot her target and found herself in Ely. She booked a taxi to take her back to Soham but it says little for the local knowledge of the Ely taxi drivers for the car went straight through the village - which has one of the longest main streets in Cambs - and on to Newmarket. Eventually she arrived at Soham, where a mystified crowd awaited, only three-quarters of an hour late

1948 06 25

"Out of every four marriages celebrated in Cambridge this week the ratio of breakage will be one" the Rev John Crowlesmth, director of the Cambridge Marriage Guidance Centre said. He gave five main reasons. The transition in the pattern of family life in which the father was only one of a circle in which his authority counted for nothing. "The wheel has turned quite obviously and we men are now the submissive sex", he said. He also considered that attempts to get married women into industry were in the long run going to be a fatal mistake in the development and encouragement of family life. Sexual ignorance and the wrong sexual technique, housing difficulties and hasty marriages were other causes and the fifth was the lack of personal conviction about the meaning of life.

1948 07 01

To prevent unhappiness in marriage caused by sterility Dr Bethel Solomons recommended fertility tests before marriage during a session of the British Medical Association conference in Cambridge. He said more men and women were miserable from the lack of children than from most other complaints. Sex education should be given in schools and by parents. "Trial marriages" had been suggested, but even if these were socially possible, non-fertility for six months did not mean it was necessarily lasting

1948 07 14

The starting of a home help scheme in the county, similar to that already in operation in Cambridge, will be an innovation welcomed by many village mothers with new born babies and any sick people who can produce a doctor's certificate showing the necessity for them to have someone to help in the house while they are unable to do much work themselves. This comparatively new social service is open to all women between 25 and 55 who will not have to take on the duties of a "char" but simply asked to perform the functions of any ordinary housewife. It has been provisionally agreed to pay 1s.9d. an hour and when necessary bus fares and cycle maintenance will be paid

1948 08 11

The five Cambridge laundries which handle the college washing when the men are up must be having something of a respite just now. During term they handle something like 150,000 pieces every week. Stiff shirts and white waistcoats are also a feature of the college wash - especially during May Week when hundreds have to be dealt with. The limited wardrobes of present day students due to rationing, calling for a quick return of the work, is another problem with which these laundries have to deal. Before commercial laundries came into being the students' washing was usually done at home by the bedmakers. Each would undertake to wash for 20 to 30 men, and collect the bundles in a handcart. Village carriers too used to come in to collect washing which was undertaken by cottage women in nearby country areas

1948 08 18

Flying a proctor light aircraft Mrs Richarda Morrow-Tait of Cambridge set out from Marshall's airport on her attempt to be the first woman to fly a light aircraft round the world. She was accompanied by her navigator and co-pilot Mr Michael Townsend of Cranmer Road, Cambridge. They carried only a minimum amount of baggage but included in it was a .303 rifle and ammunition, as part of the flight will be over uninhabited territory. Maps and baggage stowed away, including some sandwiches cut for Mrs Morrow-Tait by her husband the two climbed into the aircraft. Her husband said, "She is a wonderful person, full of courage and determination. The machine is an ex-RAF aircraft which has been thoroughly overhauled and fitted with a reconditioned engine.

1948 08 19

Miss Morrow-Tait, 24-year-old flying mother, today abandoned her around-the-world flight attempt. She left Marshall's airport yesterday but her plane was damaged in landing at Marseilles last night. She told Reuter's correspondent, "I hit a small ditch owing to bad visibility. The propeller was twisted, a wing damaged and the undercarriage also suffered. Our plan for a round-the-world flight in 200 hours is no longer realisable. I think I will probably go back to London and start again". When a C.D.N. reporter told her husband of her accident he said, "I don't care twopence about her abandoning the flight. I expect she will have another go"

1948 08 25

Every housewife knows what it is like to spend a tiring time round the shops, perhaps queuing at some, and then having to wend her way home, laden with a heavy shopping basket and numerous parcels. Women in particular therefore will be interested to hear about a delivery system which is to be started in Cambridge by means of which the public can have their shopping delivered, instead of having to carry it home themselves. The firm will operate from a stall on the market place. Shoppers will be able to take their shopping to the stall and have them delivered at their home the same morning. The charge will be 6d in the borough and 1s. in the county within a five mile radius. The originators are Delivery Services, Cambridge, who started up in business as "errand boy" to local firms last year

1948 09 24

The forthcoming Territorial Army recruiting campaign will include women as well as men. We prefer to think of them as A.T.S., and to refer to them under a title to which they brought so much credit during the war. What is being formed in Cambridge is E Company no1 (eastern) group which will, presumably be very similar to its "Mother" unit, formed at Cambridge in 1938 - a general duties company. A local Commander is a great asset to any Territorial Unit and E Company have secured Miss A.M. Hales, who was born in Linton

1948 10 21

When the Queen stood before the Vice Chancellor in Cambridge Senate House today to receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Law she was not only a Queen receiving an Honour but also a symbol of the passing of a 700-years-old "tradition" in the university. For, during the whole of the University's history no Queen - and no other woman - has ever before had a degree conferred upon her, because until the recent changes in the statutes giving women full membership the conferring of

such an honour was not possible. As the Queen entered the Senate House there was a burst of cheering and clapping. Her scarlet Doctor's robes and her black velvet doctor's cap, made a charming ensemble with the Cambridge blue shade of her dress

1948 10 21

As the Queen left Girton College yesterday evening, following her visit there, many students gathered in the drive made appropriate if unorthodox use of the gowns they now wear as symbols of their recently won rights to be full members of the University. They took off their gowns and waved them in farewell to the Royal lady, who in the morning had symbolised those new rights as she received in the Senate House the first degree to be conferred upon a woman in University history

1948 11 03

For what is probably the first time in the 360 years that gowns have been worn by students of Cambridge University, they are being regarded from the fashion viewpoint. This was the natural development of the wearing of them by women, for, while men seem happy enough wearing their gowns, which are often torn and dirty, slung on anyhow, the more dress-conscious sex was bound to look at the matter from a different angle. A contributor to "Varsity" newspaper makes suggestions as to what might be worn under them and advocates cheerful colours, rather than browns, greys and beiges

1948 11 13

Because his wife nagged him a husband was granted a decree-nisi Cambridge divorce court on the grounds of cruelty. The Commissioner described the wife as a woman with a very hasty temper, very fond of the sound of her own voice. The husband said, "She nagged me in such a way as to annoy me with the coarseness of her language. She would stand over me and talk to me and complain to me when, after a hard day's work, I was trying to get a bite of supper in peace, and when I went away upstairs she pursued me with shouting". The Commissioner mentioned that this was the sort of thing that happened from time to time in a great many homes but this was practically a daily occurrence. The wife denied that she had been guilty of this sort of conduct at all

1948 11 15

It really was women's day at the university Senate House on Saturday. Following the Queen's visit last month came the first historic degree ceremony to include women graduates. Previously they had held only the title of their degrees but now a decree has been passed admitting them to full membership they can proceed in person to take them. 114 were conferred in all. The recipients included a number who had left the colleges many years go - two from Girton had graduated in the 1890s. Side by side with them were young women who had graduated last year. All were enjoying the first fruits of a successful outcome of a struggle that had lasted 70 years

1948 11 17

Soon the sight of women students in their gowns and proceeding to degrees alongside the men, will become common place, and no one will give them a second thought. It is the "first time" however, which makes news and even the occasion of the first woman to be "progged" becomes a minor act of University history. Members of the colleges had awaited with interest to see on whom this "honour" would befall. Their curiosity was satisfied within three weeks of the beginning of term. The "honour" – said to have been coveted by a number of women students, who tried to attract the attention of the proctor – fell to a third-year anthropology student of Girton, Miss Valida Turner, who was fined for not wearing her gown after dark

1949

Training college for women teachers changes name to Hughes Hall after first principal as becomes recognised institution; had been founded 1885 in Newnham, expanded; new buildings 1895 [3.15,13]]

1949 02 25

An elderly woman had a narrow escape when a Hornet aircraft crashed on her house and blew up in the back garden of her semi-detached council house at Reed Joint, Barkway. The pilot had bailed out. Mrs S. Smith was downstairs when the plane hit the roof of her house. The explosion which occurred as soon as the aircraft hit the ground, blew out windows in both houses.

1949 04 20

Cambridge shopkeepers reported good Easter business in all departments. But very few women were able to buy a new pair of nylons for the holidays. All first grade nylons are now exported. Only a trickle of "seconds" is coming into the shops. But for all the "Easter bonnets" bought, few were to be seen in the streets. The heatwave weather which bought people out in their thousands made hatlessness more than ever the order of the day

1949 05 17

The audience remained in their seats and the play continued when fire broke out in the men's cloakroom at the A.D.C. theatre during a performance by the Cambridge Training College for Women Drama Group. The blaze was caused by a smouldering pipe left in the pocket of one of the coats in the cloakroom. At the height of the blaze, the auditorium became hazy with smoke as it drifted in through the ventilators. The audience, composed largely of university members did not panic and cheers greeted an announcement that the fire was under control.

1949 05 23

A "Happy Homes" exhibition was opened at the Co-operative hall, Burleigh Street. Several of the exhibits are of goods which are being made again for the first time since the war. One, a welcome sight, is the man's fitted wardrobe, with shelves for his underwear, ties and hats, and sliding rods and rails for suits and footwear. One exhibit which drew the women, was a cream and green electrically-driven washing machine, with automatic wringer, which does the family wash in an hour and a half, at a cost of about 1d in electricity a week.

1949 05 30

At the rate of two a minute some 370 men employed by the Cambridge Instrument Company voluntarily underwent a free examination making possible the early discovery and treatment of any trouble in their chests. Facilities for such a high-speed search are the result of the war-time development of mass radiography, which enables X-ray photographs to be taken without fuss. Already some 4,000 men and 600 women have taken advantage of the opportunity. Women attend for X-ray separately from men, and are each provided with a freshly-laundered chest cover.

1949 06 23

The fact that two families had to be rehoused owing to the direct harm done children through being in the proximity of a slaughterhouse was mentioned at the meeting of the Cambridge National Council of Women. Three children in one family have been recommended for the Open Air School as they were in a nervous condition, entirely due to being near a slaughterhouse. They expressed "grave concern" at the council's decision to renew the slaughterhouse licence in Fitzroy Street, which was in a congested residential area & urged the council to provide a municipal abattoir with the most modern hygienic equipment for the humane slaughter of animals, situated away from a residential district.

1949 08 19

Cambridge's "flying housewife", Mrs Richarda Morrow-Tait, was resting following her arrival at Croydon last night on completion of her round the world flight, claimed to be the first to be made by a woman. She landed in England 366 days after she had set out from Marshall's airport where she learned her flying. She took off in a single-engined Proctor which was damaged in a forced landing and was replaced by a Vultee Valiant.

1949 09 28

Cambridge men and women were featured in a new series broadcast in the BBC Women's Hour programme. A few weeks ago a mobile recording unit visited Messrs Chivers Factory at Histon. Among those selected to describe their jobs was Miss Ruth Blows, who has been with Chivers for over 30 years. She is employed as a "tapper" – she tests the glass jam jars to make sure they are airtight. The name of the firm was not mentioned of course, because the BBC does not advertise.

1949 11 01

A great worker in the field of women's suffrage has died. Mrs Edith Bethune-Baker devoted her life to the advancement of women's suffrage. When she first came to live in Cambridge she joined the small suffrage society, the first meeting of which was held at Christ's college. On one occasion she spent 11 hours on a cross-country journey to address a meeting of 12 women. After the suffrage battle was won she carried on the work to secure equality for women. Although firm and courageous in her stand, she was essentially gentle and courteous

1950 01 06

About half-a-dozen women bargain hunters waited all night for the opening of Messrs Heyworth's Sidney St, Cambridge, sale today. The first queuer had waited 15 hours for a brown suit reduced from 79/6 (£3.95) to £1. All the fur coats marked down from £37 to £10 have been snapped up but the main rush was in the children's section. It was expected that the bargains will just about last out the two days of the sale.

1950 06 19

Not many people seem to realise that women have been playing cricket now for over 50 years and that in these sex-equality days there are still some who think it is still not quite the right sort of sport for young ladies to indulge in. Cambridge Women's Cricket Club has been in existence for just over two years – and as yet no one quite experienced enough has played for her county. Cambridge has an overarm bowling rule and has little or no experience against the underarm method. They were rather flummoxed when they first played a village women's team who used this style of delivery, but they are getting accustomed to it now

1950 06 22

The wife of a farm labourer left her husband and three children to live – "in primitive conditions" in a field with a German Prisoner of War, Bottisham magistrates were told. The woman was said to be pregnant by the PoW who was working for a Cambridgeshire farmer. The magistrates made an order committing the children to the care of the County Council, as they did not want to go back to their home because of village gossip.

1950 08 14

In another 20 years Cambridge should be certain of having a strong and healthy community of young men & women, for surely the present day babies must be the best of any generation. This was brought to mind at the Bonny Baby Show when proud mothers watched their babies judged by an expert authority, Sister Sparrow, of the Mill Road Maternity Hospital. One has only to walk along the street and look into every pram you pass to see that all the occupants, with a few very rare exceptions, are happy and contented little souls.

1950 10 09

Girls in their teens, middle aged women and some in their sixties mingled together at a jubilee reunion of the Cambridgeshire High School for Girls. For many it was their first visit to the new school in Long Road. Their own memories took them back to the Drill Hall in East Road, where the school began, or to the Collier Road premises, now the Technical College and School of Art. The happy times spent there were recalled often during the evening

1951 02 14

Despite official denials, rumours of a return to clothes coupons are gaining ground. Women are buying sets of undies with that in view, remembered that underclothes were the last to be renewed in the war-time rationing. Their buying has spread to nylon blouses, nighties and underwear. "All the nylon will be going into parachutes", people are whispering. Housewives have started to hoard soap too, for fear of a shortage.

1951 02 21

Mrs Jean P. Silver has the distinction of being the first woman to be accepted as a special constable for Cambridge. She will be issued with a uniform and receive a course of instruction in police work generally. Her work will consist of help to regular policewomen, at office work, enquiries, matters affecting women and girls, and patrol duties. The Cambridge police force requires a limited number of women special constables. They must be over the age of 30, and physically fit

1951 04 18

Cambridge's first woman traffic warden takes up her duties on Monday, to help children cross the road before and after school. She is Mrs M.E. Vail who will be attached to St Luke's school, Victoria Road. The idea of having civilian traffic wardens was taken up in January when the education committee appointed a man for Morley memorial school; a second started at St Barnabas school this week.

1951 07 23

Members of the Cambridgeshire Women's Voluntary Service deserve a rest, with regular work teams doing jobs in hospitals, serving and driving meals on wheels, collecting salvage, helping in Infant Welfare Centres and distributing welfare foods in the villages. A lot of welfare work for the Forces is done, ranging from canteens and clubs to sending magazines to Korea. Nor should the steady work to help the old people and the pensioners in the county be forgotten. On all sides one hears the same remark: "I am glad to be of use"

1951 09 17

There must be a great many single business and professional women living in "digs" in Cambridge who just long for a small self-contained flat or flatlet of their own. One organisation anxious to do something is the National Federation of Business Professional Women's Clubs, which has a building society of its own, the Probus Women's Housing Society. The Cambridge B.P. club is now considering whether to buy houses. If they do go ahead it will look out for a house suitable for conversion into flats. It is good to see this club, which has a strong social sense, trying to do something really practical for its members.

1951 11 26

Fines totalling £20 were imposed upon a woman stallholder summoned for overcharging for nylons. She sold a pair of fully fashioned nylon hose stamped with the words "15 dernier" at 17s.11d, a price exceeding the maximum retail price, at Midsummer Fair, Cambridge. A housewife said she paid 10s 11d for a pair of nylons and had been told they were not perfect – one being longer than the other. When she got home she found they were both laddered. She exchanged them for another pair, which cost an additional 7s and these also had ladders in them. The nylon quality was good but she did not like paying 17s.11d for them and she made a complaint to the Price Regulation Committee

1951 12 08

Reminiscences of the First World War when the Star Brewery, Cambridge, was manned almost entirely by women were shared by Major Freeman at the celebration of the firm's diamond jubilee anniversary. When he joined in 1903 there were 30 public houses on the Newmarket Road. It had come into being in 1891; in 1935 it became a subsidiary of the Tollemache Company and recently the firm of Messrs Whitmore, in St Andrew's Hill, had been acquired. The brewery had stabling for 25 horses up to 1935 when motor transport was first introduced. It had been a great success and was now considered to be the county's "star" brewery.

1952 01 30

Does the best food go to the colleges? Miss R.N. Small, the first woman Steward of Caius College, was asked. Most colleges like to trade with local shops and the quality had its ups and downs. The college could not afford to give poultry to undergraduates more than once a term. While Fellows could give dinner parties in their own rooms, undergraduates were only allowed the facility during May Week when she made an all-out effort to help the men who wish to impress other people. It was the custom these days for undergraduates to work off their hospitality by means of stand-up sherry parties.

1952 04 22

A local schoolgirl's experiences in London over Easter was related to Cambridge Juvenile Court magistrates. She said that she met an American who gave her £2 and her fare to London, saying he would meet her there. She stayed two nights with a woman who was known to be an "undesirable character" and two further nights in the company of another girl whom she met. She had posed as 17, frequented the amusement arcades and snack bars and associated with several "spivvy people". She was sent to a remand home until a place could be found at an approved school.

1952 04 28

It was a rather sad moment when Miss Gaskell got up to make her farewell speech as chairman at the annual meeting of the Cambridgeshire Federation of Women's Institutes. She has held office since it was first formed over 30 years ago, first as assistant secretary to Miss Ellen Briscoe, and became chairman in 1941. She also served on the National Executive for 14 years. Now having reached her three score years and ten she will be able to rest on her laurels in the satisfaction of a job well done.

1952 05 03

The Foreign Secretary, Mr Anthony Eden opened the Anglo-U.S.A. and Allied services Club on Castle Hill, Cambridge. A year ago the city council was approached by the Women's Voluntary Service with the object of providing the site for the club. Since then much work had been done by the W.V.S. together with valuable assistance of the U.S. Air Force and the Air Ministry. The club will be open every evening during the week and, Mr Eden said, will lure out American Service men from the attractions of their camps so they could learn "what extraordinary animals the English are"

1952 06 12

Cambridge University is considering the possibility of increasing the number of women permitted to the University in any one year. The Council of Senate recommends there should be a new autonomous foundation for women students, the number not exceeding 100. They consider there is a great need for women graduates but any increase should not lead to a lowering of standards. Present regulations permit of 1,400 women, one-fifth of the total of men students. Cambridge is doing considerably less than other Universities in providing women with a University education.

1952 10 08

It has long been the ambition of Heyworths of Sidney Street, Cambridge, to be able to claim that they catered for their women customers from head to foot. But there was one thing missing. They did not stock shoes. This has now been rectified and a brand new women's shoe department was opened in the basement. Only "Lotus" and "Delta" shoes will be sold, including shoes for day (fashion and walking) and evening wear. The innovation is welcomed by customers and trade has been brisk.

1952 11 26

One woman who says 'No thank you' to a mink coat is the wife of a St Neots mink farmer. He was one of a dozen mink farmers in Britain in 1945. Now he is one of 200 who are showing that the film stars' fur can be bred here as well and cheaper than in Canada and America. Mink are usually sold in trios – one male and two females – at about £50 for dark brown, £65 for silver blue and £100 for the newly-fashionable white. The chances of growing a mink coat in your back garden are not much. You would need 100 skins and they would have to be perfectly matched.

1953 02 04

Varsity, the university student magazine, reports that the rooms in women's colleges may be poky, unsuitably furnished and dimly lighted but they are not dowdy. At Newnham all the rooms are attractive but dim lighting and inadequate heating are the main faults and there is a dearth of food cupboards. Male visitors may be shocked to see that their hostess keeps food and crockery in her wardrobe together with damp towels and that the desk drawers contain undies. At Girton some rooms contain antique furnishings which give an air of luxury but others are completely modern with unique mobiles and original paintings by Avante Garde artists.

1953 02 24

Almost 200 members of the Cambridge Branch British Legion Women's Section celebrated their jubilee at the Dorothy Café. Mrs A.A. Sampson, Chairman, expressed thanks to their officers and mentioned in particular the only two standard bearers the branch had had in its 25 years. Mrs Barnard, who had retired for health reasons in 1936, and her sister, Mrs Garner, who took over the duty at that time. After dinner the guests danced to the music of Wally Scott's Band and were entertained by a cabaret by members of Mrs Joan Metcalfe's School of Dancing

1953 09 23

Joshua Taylor staged a Fashion Parade, a popular event to which the womenfolk of Cambridge look forward with keen anticipation. One of the mannequins modelled clothes for the woman with the larger figure whilst another showed teenager styles from the "Young Cambridge" department. There was no sign of M. Dior's new shorter skirt – this will not reach the provinces until next Spring, so women need not rush to turn up the hems of the clothes they are wearing in order not to give away the fact that they are not new. Drain-pipe corduroy slacks in navy and red vertical stripes were worn with an off white wool and mohair jacket and there was a beautiful fur coat in Russian ermine, priced at only £1,195 – pity I hadn't got my cheque book with me!

1953 09 23

Cambridge Women's Physical Culture Club has now reached the mature age of 21 years during which hundred of women have benefited by the teachings of the Misses Marjorie and Mary Vinsen. In its early days the club received support of eminent local gynaecologists. Teenagers, young mothers, housewives, businesswomen and "young grandmothers" exercise at the Dorothy Café, building health and improving their figures.

1954 04 13

The inaugural meeting of the Cambridge Flower Decoration Club was held in the Guildhall with an audience of several hundred people – almost entirely of women. The Mayor said the city council was fully alive to the value of floral decorations. On one roundabout alone as many as 4,000 plants were used. There was criticism of the money spent on floral decorations but residents and visitors appreciated the added beauty they gave the city. The new Club could bring Cambridge extra fame by becoming one of the centres of floral art. No fewer than 143 people have now joined.

1954 04 28

New Hall opens as 3rd foundation for women [2.14,8.6]

1954 10 06

A new chapter in Cambridge University history has opened on an informal note at New Hall, the third foundation for women, where the first 16 students are now in residence. They drew lots for the rather Spartan bedrooms while a 'combination' room is being used for (voluntary) morning services – there is no chapel - and other activities. A rather gloomy downstairs study room is well-equipped with desks and chairs and nearby is an out-of-doors wringer of hefty make. "We can do our own washing and save on laundry bills", said Miss Angela Holder, a petite, attractive Freshman, giving the handle an experimental turn. Miss A.R. Murray, the tutor, says she welcomes the building – a converted guest house - as a temporary home but looks forward to moving to Byron House in 1960

1954 11 26

The women of Cambridge on the whole seem to prefer casual clothes although these can look smart, said the Vogue Pattern Stylist who is at Eaden Lilley's all this week helping people with their fashion problems. This is beneficial to the home dress-maker who saves a lot of expense by making her own clothes. If she is in need of any help or wants to know some trade hints she cannot ask a professional dress-maker but can ask her. Some cannot summon up enough courage but they need not be timid. She advises women to buy patterns one size smaller because they allow two inches on all their patterns. "It is not the amount of money you spend that makes you well dressed, but good taste and knowing how to wear your clothes", she said.

1955 04 13

Police Sergeant Harold Holden was on the Cambridge traffic patrol when it first started and was in charge until wireless was introduced into police vehicles. In 1946 he passed the 1st Class Police Driver's Test and has been instructing and examining police drivers. Now on his retirement he will run his own Driving School using a Ford Anglia with dual controls. His mother was one of the first women to hold a driving licence in 1908 and taught driving during the First World War. 55 04 13

1955 05 03

Cambridge University Officers Training Corps is to have a wing of the Women's Royal Army Corps with most of the recruits coming from Girton, Newnham and New Hall. All work would come after the prior claims of their courses and no decisive steps would be taken until after they have graduated. The main object would be to produce good officers but driving, vehicle maintenance, radio and photographic interpretation may also be available. However large the numbers it will have to face a considerable drain on the 'marriage market'. 55 05 03a

1955 11 02

Ida Maxwell, well-known for her stage, film and photographic work, is to open a Mannequin Academy at Overstream House, Cambridge. The course will last 12 weeks and include tuition in etiquette, make-up, hairstyles and general appearance. Students who pass an examination will receive a certificate to say they are a professional model which will help them find jobs in London. The course is also suitable for mature women wanting to acquire a well-groomed appearance for social or business reasons. 55 11 02b

1956 06 25

Civic history was made when Councillor Mrs M. Hudson was elected Mayor of St Ives. She is the first woman ever to hold this high position. She came in 1920 with her late husband, an artist on the staff of Enderby and Company, and was elected the first lady councillor in 1945 with more than 1,000 votes, a record. She must have wished for the company of another lady whilst being 'smoke-dried' by a lot of men in the committee room, now Miss Grove has joined her. 56 05 25c

1956 06 25

Cambridge Business and Profession Women's Club opened their block of flats on Harding Way and handed six lucky women their keys to brand new self-contained homes. They have coal bunkers and Ascot hot-water heaters for sinks and baths. Faced with the overwhelming need for accommodation for single ladies in Cambridge, when it proved impossible to find a house, they had the braveness and energy to find £1,000 to form their own housing society. 56 06 25

1956 08 16

The pink-overalled corps of women known as the 'Home Helps Service' are available to homes where there are expectant mothers, elderly people, those who are ill and small children in need of care. The 250 ladies cook, clean, shop, wash and iron, receiving 2s 10d an hour. One helper isn't exactly a housewifery expert but was always in some small trouble of her own. 'We like having her', the old people said, 'she brings us a bit of excitement!' 56 08 16

1956 09 14

One marriage in six breaks down and the emancipation of women has contributed to the rise in divorce figures, the director of the Cambridge Marriage Guidance Council said. During the last ten years they have helped 500 couples training for marriage and of these only 50 had their own homes. The rest were living with in-laws and in rooms. But wilful refusal to consummate a marriage, artificial insemination of the wife by an unknown donor without the husband's permission or if one partner is mentally defective should be grounds for divorce. 56 09 14a

1956 12 21

Dry Drayton Mothers' Union will soon receive a new banner thanks to a Royston girl. Margaret Williams is a keen and able needlewoman who when she puts the final stitch will have spent 700 hours carefully embroidering the banner made of blue brocade with gold silk lettering and white cross surmounted with a sheaf of lilies. It is nothing less than a work of art. 56 12 21

1957 03 29

Nurse G.A. Dorrington of Coleridge Road is a midwife who has brought over 3,800 babies into the world. For 30 years she has been on call night and day, attending women in their own homes across Cambridge. Occasionally she visits a woman having a baby and finds she actually delivered the mother many years ago. Now she has been awarded the M.B.E. 57 03 29

1957 07 17

Cambridgeshire Women's Bowling Association was founded in 1937. Now their new flag in the County colours of light and dark blue and old gold was hoisted for the first time at a bowls drive at Brooklands Avenue to celebrate its 21st anniversary. 57 07 17

1957 08 21

University Aunts offer a wide range of services from their offices in Wheeler Street, including arranging accommodation, escorting foreign visitors, typing theses, personal shopping or finding people to look after babies. Students form a large part of their clientele seeking bachelor mending, quick laundry or girl partners for dances. The Head Aunts depend on a network of part-time helpers and need women with initiative to act as emergency housekeepers. 57 08 21

1957 08 28

All over the country the Women's Institutes are busily recording the history of their villages, questioning old residents and collecting old deeds, photographs and paintings. Documents found in a fireplace recess in a Comberton cottage include an invitation to a 'farriers feast' at Bassingbourn and a horse doctor's bill. They were lent to a Cambridge personality with the intention that they reach the Folk Museum, but were somehow mislaid. 57 08 28

1956 09 04

Milton Women's Institute has two 14-year-old members. One is Jean Pearson, daughter of Milton's President, who is following the membership footprints of her two grandmothers. The other girl is Maureen Smith, daughter of the Institute's treasurer. 57 09 04

1957 10 04

A mannequin parade at the Dorothy Café ballroom attracted over 300 women. They were shown clothes stocked in the Cambridge Mayfair store modelled by seven girls. But they were not all the slender, willowy types. Two larger models – one a 42 hip – wore some of the most attractive creations ranging from evening dresses to winter coats. 57 10 04

1957 10 16

Is a university education wasted on a woman? Many people are convinced that for a girl to have a long and expensive education, only to get married at the end, is a waste of time and money. Now Cambridge graduate, Judith Hubback, has interviewed married university women for a book 'Wives who went to college'. It is impossible to forecast who will marry and who will not: if a woman never

marries she will have to compete with men in her profession, but if she has a family she will need education of other skills. 57 10 16

1957 12 18

Listeners to the BBC "Women's Hour" heard Doris Foster, of Occupation Road, talking about her job as radio receptionist at a Cambridge taxi firm. She handles hundreds of calls a day with fantastic speed and ease. Most drivers memorise landmarks such as pillar boxes but one knows practically every street, the position of each house and can go straight to any number in the pitch dark. 57 12 18a

1958 01 03

Cambridge artist Mrs Pamela Townshend had been commissioned to paint a portrait of Princess Margaret to commemorate her visit to open Langdon House. This young and vivacious woman has quickly become established as an artist and the Queen has bought one of her views of a French street scene. 58 01 03

1958 02 13

Miss Florence Ada Keynes, a former Mayor of Cambridge and a noted historian and social welfare worker, has died aged 97. She was one of the earliest students of Newham College and one of the first women members of the Borough Council and old Board of Guardians. She started the Cambridge Juvenile Employment Exchange – the first in the country - and was the first secretary of the Cambridge Charity Organisation Society. 58 02 13

1958 02 19

A new W.V.S. Out Patients' canteen opened at Addenbrooke's Hospital. It supplies light meals and refreshments to 2,000 people a week. The welcome food and hot drinks help reduce tension and enable patients to be ready to benefit from medical advice and treatment. The canteen was started in 1911 by members of the British Women's Temperance Association and Miss Olive Golding who began the work, still does three shifts a week. 58 02 19

1958 03 21

Neale House, the Cambridge base of the Society of St Margaret, was opened in December 1955. It is a small hostel for young professional or University women of any denomination and the chapel is open all day for private prayer. The Anglican sisterhood was founded by John Mason Neale of Trinity College, widely known for his English versions of Greek and Latin hymns. 58 03 21

1958 04 25

Isle County Council first woman alderman – 58 04 25a

1958 09 12

Attendance was very poor indeed at a meeting called to hear how women could take measures in their own households to protect families in the event of nuclear war. The WVS had invited 130 women, but only nine turned up. However the three speakers explained how to shelter from the atom bomb's heat flash and how the thick whitewashing of windows could stop penetration of radio-active dust. 58 09 12

1958 10 28

Cambridgeshire Women's Institutes fear the history of our villages will soon disappear in the welter of new housing estates. So they have organised a Village Histories Scrapbook competition to tell their stories from earliest times up to the present day. The histories have been compiled into books, many of them lettered and illustrated by hand. Cherry Hinton's scrapbook was awarded top prize, followed by Soham and Papworth Everard. A special award was given to the small isolated Institute of Chrishall which made an outstanding effort. 58 10 28a

1958 11 14

Mrs Veronica Volkertz and Mrs Anne Duncan, two women who spent the war years ferrying aircraft of all types, flying more than 4,000 hours between them are now back at Marshall's Flying School – learning to become instructors. Both learned to fly under the short-lived Civil Air Guard scheme in 1939 when one could qualify for an A Licence for about £2.10.0. Nowadays the equivalent Private Pilot's Licence costs pupils around £100! 58 11 14

1958 11 03

Women's Institute history scrapbooks praised – 58 11 03

1959 04 25

The Cambridgeshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The first detachment (women) was formed in Cambridge in 1910 and followed by Bourn, Swavesey, Shelford & Willingham. The first men's detachment was formed at Melbourn in 1913. With the coming of the First World War valuable work was done at hospitals in Cintra Terrace and Wordsworth Grove which laid the foundation for their well-established reputation for invaluable service. 59 04 25c

1959 05 19

The inaugural meeting of the Cambridge Electrical Association for Women heard that when the Association started in 1924 electrical appliances were just beginning to find their way into the home. Housewives joined to get over the fear of electricity and to get the best value from their appliances. With machines men always want to know how they work and women are contented if they work but now they are giving a scholarship to a girl wanting to study engineering at Cambridge University. 59 05 19 & a

1959 06 06

The Cambridge Association for Social Welfare told how in 1854 a group of undergraduates opened a Mission in Church Street, later to be called Stanton House, where spiritual and material help was given to women and girls in serious moral trouble. Then in 1883 a group of University ladies formed the 'Cambridge Association for the Care of Girls' finding work for girls living under dangerous circumstances 59 06 06 c

1959 06 27

Ely first woman JP – Mrs Covill – dies – 59 06 27

1959 07 28

Work has begun on the new Addenbrooke's Hospital in Hills Road. The first stage will include a ward block of 100 beds and although the final size has not yet been decided it will be between 600 and 800 beds. "Our responsibilities are to the future and we shall be very much to blame if in 20 years' time we find ourselves looking for a bigger hospital", said the Chairman of the Governors' building committee. It will stand in a landscape planned by a woman architect, Mrs J.M. Hayward, in collaboration with the Director of the University Botanic Garden. 59 07 28

1959 08 14

The Rev Mrs Grace Adams, Congregational Minister to the Cheveley Group, say she has always met with kindness and the men have been most gallant and trusting. Women are given full rights in the Congregational church and they exchange preachers with other denominations. Last year she preached at the Newmarket Anglican Church on the Women's Day of Prayer. She is an encouragement for more members of the sex to follow her example. 59 08 14

1959 09 11

Barbara Smith, woman butcher, Akeman Street – 59 09 11

1959 10 19

A 21-year-old blonde sat down with 200 students in the dining room of Christ's College – and went completely unnoticed. That was not surprising because she was dressed in a grey suit, bright yellow waistcoat and wore thick glasses and a black beard! Elizabeth Grant, a third year medical student had decided to avenge the fair sex for a hoax played on Girton students last week. College regulations allow students to bring in their (male) friends but women are banned. Everything went off beautifully. She kept her voice down during the meal and although second glances were cast by some, nobody said anything. 59 10 19d

1959 10 23

A pint of beer, an ounce of tobacco and two boxes of matches cost fivepence-halfpenny when Mr & Mrs E.D. Clark first took over the 'Rising Sun' public house at Isleham nearly 50 years ago. There have been vast changes in drinking habits. Before the First World War they were open from 6am to 10pm and a man could have a good evening out on six-pence – about three pints of beer. After the war women started to come with their husbands. Stout and port-and-lemon have always been popular women's drinks, though the Rising Sun sold more beer and spirits than anything else. 59 10 23

1960 02 12

Mrs J. Blackburn has been chosen to play at right inner for the East Anglian Women's Hockey Association team in their match against the Midlands, becoming the first Cambridgeshire-born player to represent the East since the 1920's. She is the daughter of Sir John Cockcroft the atom bomb scientist who is to be the first Master of Churchill College. 60 02 12

1960 04 01

George Pickering the King Street jeweller took up ear-piercing as a sideline eight years ago. Since then he has pierced the lobes of more than 7,000 pairs of ears – about 20 'patients' a week. Girls come in groups from Haverhill, Ely, Huntingdon and Northampton and often queue up to go behind the screens for the three-and-a-half minute procedure which will turn them into women capable of wearing ear-rings. Very few of them faint. He has also had a few boy customers who just want the left ear pierced. 60 04 01

1960 04 29

"Men's plain socks knitted free" read an advertisement in this newspaper. It was placed by Mrs G. Bowen of 'The Place', Ickleton. This charming woman is 84 years old and loves knitting. During the war she knitted more than 550 pairs and currently finishes four pairs a month. She likes to read while she is knitting but has to concentrate on the heels and so leaves the turning to do until she is not wanting to read. She is always ready to help people and has fought many issues of importance such as council houses and water supplies. She has visited Linton Hospital every fortnight since 1920 taking a bundle of newspapers and magazines. 60 04 29a

1960 06 22

Mrs Louie Wallace of Maid's Causeway has been the ladies champion of Cambridgeshire Small-bore Rifle Association for ten out of the past eleven years. She is a member of the Gogs Rifle Club which was originally the 5th Battalion Home Guard Club. It is a good sport for women as it needs enormous concentration and self-discipline. Club and county badges are worn on the back of the shooting jackets so they can be seen while the competitor is actually firing. 60 06 22

1960 07 22

Every day an army of Cambridge women leave their homes early in the morning and begin their work as bed-makers at the colleges. One is Miss L. Hagger of Sturton Street who started work at Trinity in 1924 when the women had to be at the college gate at six o'clock. She clears the living room, washes-up the dirty crockery and glasses, cleans the rugs, carpets and surrounds and dusts. Breakfast is then cooked for the Fellows and while the undergraduates have gone down to hall for their meal, their bedrooms are tidied and the beds made. At one time bed-makers used to wear cuffs when she made the bed and changed her clothes after cleaning. A hat was always worn. 60 07 22

1961 02 03

An advertisement in a student newspaper offering the job of guiding tourists round Cambridge for a payment of £8 a day has attracted a wide response. They would use their own cars to bring small parties of Americans from London and smart girls would take American women shopping. But Mrs Ruth Mellanby of the well-established Cambridge guide service views the idea with trepidation. Her guides are carefully trained and charge 10/6 (52p) an hour for a party of eight. 61 02 03

1961 02 20

A team from Pan American Airways visited Cambridge speaking to applicants from the girls' colleges to fill their quota for air stewardesses, one of the most glamorous carers in the 20th-century.. One said "We thought we might get a nice type of girl from the University – the sort who, once she has got her degree, would like to spend a year or 18 months flying with us. By the time they're 23 they want to marry; you can't blame them really". The firm were quite reconciled to it and it kept their service fresh and active. In spite of the attractive prospects there were very few applicants for interview from Girton or Newnham students 61 02 20

1960 03 21

Women undergraduates are rather spoiled, with ten men to each girl, and marry at a younger age so Newnham has problems finding College Fellows, the Principal complained. Sometimes girls staying in Cambridge after their marriage could continue their work but often it meant recruiting Dons from outside. This brought other problems as Newnham could not afford to pay a good income meaning many candidates were unable to take up the appointment 61 03 21

1961 05 04

Women undergraduates should stop trying to be competitive with the men and become complementary to them instead. There should be optional University classes in cookery, needlework and floral arrangements for the benefit of women, a Girton undergraduate writes in the 'Cambridge Review'. But two Newnham students are indignant that anyone should suppose they are not already proficient in domestic matters when they came up to Cambridge and deny women have no recreation other than working or taking tea 61 05 04

1961 06 30

Mrs Anita Brown of Soham has an unusual hobby – sign writing. Her largest work is now at Chatteris advertising the Traction Engine Rally. It is on a six by four feet piece of hardboard and features a detailed picture of a traction engine painted in Chinese lacquer. A gifted artist, she also tints photographs professionally, enjoys modelling clay and is keen on pottery. When Soham Women's Institute entered the Cambridgeshire Federation's scrap book competition, Anita illustrated their book and designed the cover 61 06 30

1961 09 08

Members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Territorial Association are examining aerial photographs at the new Air Photo Interpretation Centre at the Drill Hall in East Road. Until April they were a Motor Transport Company and when reorganised were divided into two sections with the other studying signals at Coldham's Lane. The women have to sign on for two years and receive full army pay with an annual bounty of ten guineas. Uniforms are given and they train each Monday evening. But it is difficult if there are small children for in wartime the T.A. are the first to be called up. 61 09 08b

1961 10 18

A 20-year old law student at New Hall was carried unconscious from the Cambridge Union Society debating chamber. She was one of three girls who fought their way in as a protest against 'a niggling absurd and out-of-date rule' which forbids women as debating members. As the guest speakers, Peter Thorneycroft, the Minister of Aviation and Labour MP Richard Crossman looked on, the debate was

adjourned. In the scuffles that followed the girl fainted. She was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital. The debate then continued. 61 10 18a

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1962 03 02

Two women are virtually controlling the publication used by senior University members to express themselves on policies and topics for the first time in its long history. 'The Cambridge Review' is entirely edited by Dr Mary Hesse and Mrs Karen Needham. The Review has no official status but is mostly read and contributed to by senior academics. It recently celebrated its 2,000th edition. 62 03 02

1962 05 10

The 80 women who work among the paper Christmas trees at Whittlesford are hopping mad with Mr J.H. Tickell who runs one of the village public houses. He told an inquiry "We do not want more factories in the village as they attract the wrong sort of girls". They ride their cycles three or four abreast down village streets, indulge in raucous behaviour and give the female equivalent of a wolf whistle if any man passes, he claimed. But the owner of the paper-decoration factory says they were nearly all respectable married women and a few single girls of very good character. 62 05 10b

1962 06 29

Violet Stormont combines the duties of housewife with her job a petrol attendant at a Cambridge garage, providing a cheerful on-the-spot service to passing motorists. Dark haired and smart in her official uniform she finds the work more interesting than her previous job as a children's nurse. She says that male motorists are invariably more polite and considerate than the average woman driver. 62 06 29

1962 07 11

A large proportion of the strawberries you eat will have been picked by Cambridgeshire women who have spent most of their lives working on the land. They start in the Spring picking daffodils and follow through the season with flowers, soft fruit and finally apples. The short season for the different fruit and flowers prevents the work becoming monotonous. During the summer holidays their children join them. This is how most of the women were introduced to picking themselves, starting at six o'clock in the morning. There is no age limit and the most efficient are over 60 years of age. 62 07 11

1962 11 21

Union Society women may now speak [26.8]

1963 01 18

Miss Alice Haslop, 95, Trumpington's oldest parishioner; was born and lived all her life in the village where her father was bootmaker and carrier to Cambridge. She was a laundress of no mean repute and a good plain needlewoman, particularly in making pillow-slips. She insisted on doing her own housework as long as she could and possessed a sense of humour. As a child the nearest doctor was near Woollards Lane, Shelford, and medicine had to be fetched, walking to the surgery before breakfast. "I liked going", she said with an impish gleam in her eye, "because then I was late for school". Her death closes a chapter in the village's history. 63 01 18c

1963 05 01

Pampisford dress designer Rudi Newton showed the collection he has created for the London fashion house of Sylvia Mills. He has a distinctive simplicity, getting extreme smartness into everything he makes while keeping them absolutely suitable for both town or country. The suits have the wider shoulders (though far removed from the 1940s styles) and are gently rounded and flattering. His range of over 80 coats, suits and dresses suit women of all ages. 63 05 01b

1963 09 11

Cambridge girls seem to have a reluctance to wear eye make-up says a beauty consultant working at a local store. Women do not look after their skins properly, cleansing the face carefully each night to take away all trace of the day's make up. The cosmetics she was promoting are the most expensive in the world but are extremely economical in use. Some of the colours are intriguing. Gossamer green neutralises ruddy or florid complexions, a soft mauve lightens sallow skins white a whit blots out shadowed, darkened and lined areas and will highlight cheekbones, shorten or lengthen a nose and make small eyes seem larger. 63 09 11c

1963 11 05

History was made when Janet Hogg, a 321-year-old New Hall undergraduate, became the first woman member of the University Union Society since its formation in 1815. Two Girton women became the first to take part in a debate on the motion "Till death do us part is ridiculous". The motion was rejected. To return home to a wife and family after a day of fighting for his existence was one of the most pleasant and happy things that could happen to a man. 63 11 05, 13a

1964 06 26

A group of women meet twice a week in a corner of Cambridge police station. Some are typists, some work in laboratories and banks, but the majority are ordinary housewives. They are all rifle shooting enthusiasts who practice on the police range. They change into slacks and firing jackets, then erect target cards and collect ammunition. Their ambition is to be selected for the county women's smallbore team. Husbands and boy friends used to be rather patronising when they took up shooting as a hobby. That is until they were invited to the range one evening and given the opportunity to shoot. 64 06 26c

1965 02 13

Strict male-female segregation rule scrapped by Queens College which makes way for new foundation taking both sexes [15.9]

1965 06 08

New Hall new college buildings opened Queen Mother [8.8]

1965 10 11

Lucy Cavendish college, Britain's 1st graduate college for women to be all-woman college helping those whose careers interrupted : one of a number of 'recognised collegiate societies' rising in Cambridge to meet need of the growing numbers of University officers and active senior members without fellowship and the increasing number of research students, are experimental & University reserves right to withdraw recognition of any that fails; others are Darwin college for men founded by Trinity, St John-s & Caius & University College founded by the University for men & women[1.16,7.19.14]

1966 04 22

Cambridge Conservative Club admit women members – 66 04 22b

1966 05 09

Women workers at gas works – memories & photo – 66 05 09

1966 11 04

Bene't Hostel, Cambridge's only hostel for girls closes; has been on verge of bankruptcy for much of its 23 year history; gave shelter to women stranded in city; was used by women teachers and social workers as well as girls sent by welfare organisations; now accommodation easier to rent – 66 11 04

1967 06 01

Union Society first woman president Anne Malleieu [26.10]

1969

Churchill announce plans to admit women in 1972 - first co-ed move in Cambridge undergraduate college in 700 years [5.9]

1969 01 03

Girton celebrate centenary [6.7]

1969 02 08

Prince Charles crowns Rag Queen- 69 02 08b, 69 02 15a

1969 05 28

King's College to become second to admit women – 69 05 28

1969 09 23

Alison Quiggin memories of Women Citizen's Association and women's activities – 69 09 23

1970

Clare College consider admitting women [5.8]

1971 03 02

'Women are People' group protest about restrictions on taking pushchairs into colleges – 71 03 02

1971 12 17

Clare College to offer places to 36 girl undergraduates – 71 12 17

1972

Clare, Kings & Churchill become mixed [5.9]

1972 04 15

Women's Lib is fighting a losing battle. Though they are trumpeting the call for greater freedom for women, modern pressures are making it more difficult for women to break free from domestic chores. So said Dr Edward Leach, social anthropologist at King's College, Cambridge. With more use of contraceptives families could be created at will. This meant the old way of having large families spread over the years with older daughters helping at home with the babies was disappearing. "Daughters are now more in the nature of parasites. They cannot really help at home. Again, the modern woman is more tied to the home" said Dr Leach

1972 04 17

In due course all Cambridge colleges will be co-residential, according to a senior University tutor. So far Churchill, Kings and Clare have agreed to open their doors to women but there was little likelihood of any more colleges following suit at present. A student from St Catharine's college said "They would never think of it at my college. The reason is basically because we have a large proportion of the public school type on the governing body and they feel their role is to promote the college in the public school image"

1972 10 04

Since 1892 the University Typewriting Office has provided the link between thousands of Cambridge

graduates and their doctorate degrees. In the 80 years hundreds of Cambridge women have typed out millions of words on every discipline in the alphabet. Now, for the first time, the business has a man at its helm. Founded by a Mrs Marion Marshall, guided for 50 year by a Miss Minnie Pate, then by Miss Marjorie Sutherland and finally by Miss Mary Noble, the business was sold in May this year to Mr Walter Falles, a chartered secretary.

1972 10 05

The bulldozers and demolition gangs may have ruined the character of Petty Cury and destroyed Falcon Yard forever, but for those who appreciate the past two crumbs of comfort : Fisher House was saved. Reprieve too for Ramsey and Muspratt, the photographers in Post Office Terrace, where silver bitch trees have sprouted in the old courtyard behind the studio. There have been photographers in Post Office Terrace since the 1860s. Lettice Ramsey and Helen Muspratt took over from Palmer Clark in 1933. "We took over the whole thing, lock, stock and barrel, with about 50,000 old negatives. We have been here ever since", said Mrs Ramsey, competing with the noise of a pneumatic drill. Now she and her women assistants battle through the noise and dust every day to maintain a "business as normal" service

1972 11 04

Britain's top female liberationist, Miss Germaine Greer, told Cambridge undergraduates of the sexual tensions she had become aware of in the university while studying at Newnham College five years ago. She said: "Most people feel that this university enshrines the most incapacitating mistakes about the relationship between men and women. Why was it when it came to May Balls male undergraduates always invite girls from the language schools, or their cousins from London?. The thing that amazes me is that the girls do not break into the May Balls by inviting all kinds of truck drivers as their escort. I went to most of the balls over the fence and what I cannot understand is why girls have baulked at this male confidence trick"

1973 03 03

The Master of St Catharine's College, Professor Edwin Rich, was involved in a scuffle with women's lib demonstrators last night when 30 of them interrupted the Cambridge College's dinner. College Fellows left the high table and with waiters rushed to the 69-year-old Master's assistance when women demonstrators began struggling with him after he had grabbed a bugle which one woman attempted to blow in his face. The demonstration was aimed at drawing attention to the lack of places for women in Cambridge University. The trouble started immediately after grace had been said and halted waiters in their tracks leaving them poised with trays of grapefruit. The demonstrators - all women - swept into the hall led by a bugler and carrying an assortment of placards on the theme "Sexism - out"

1973 05 12

A woman doctor spoke last night about sexpot girls from Cambridge schools who wander around trying to be sexual objects. Dr Shirley Emerson, a family planning advisor, said "I have met girls who have never learned anything about sex except that sex is the thing to do but that you have to be successful at it. Boys and girls are trying to do sex at "O" levels, I have 17-year-olds coming to me complaining that they are frigid"

1973 05 23

After 700 years of male domination the first woman to be chosen as Vice Chancellor - the effective head of Cambridge University - does not anticipate any particular problems in dealing with her male colleagues. Miss Rosemary Murray, who is president of New Hall, was nominated by the Council of Senate. She will take up her post in two years if the nomination is accepted by the university, usually a formality. She is due to take charge at a difficult time in the university's history, when students are demanding more and more say in the running of its affairs

1973 08 11

Three young women in distress have put Cambridge public health inspectors in a tight spot. They are victims of a mystery wind-borne attacker that makes holes in their tights - but only on Monday mornings when the trio are walking to work. "Little holes suddenly start appearing in our tights", said 20-year-old Sally Chapman. "There are small black holes like burns around the holes. Jo gets holes round her ankles. I get them round the knees and down. All sorts of places." The public health department has twice taken pairs of tights away for examination.

1973 11 22

1200 march try admit more women & abandon single-sex colleges - oppose attempts to get special Oxbridge legislation in Equal opportunities Bill [24.6]

1973 12 07

Only one woman in a Saffron Walden factory knows the recipe of natural oils and moisture that go into a huge melting pot to reduce Britain's biggest selling moisturiser. British women have always had a reputation for good skins and it is only recently they have begun to turn to moisturisers and skin care creams to help slow down the advance of lines and wrinkles. Latterly these products that have cornered the fastest growing section of the cosmetics industry and the Garsalle factory at Shire Hill, Saffron Walden has been carried along on the crest of a wave. It employs just over 30 people turning out 150,000 bottles of skin care products a week. And the factory is bursting at the seams.

1973 12 18

Thousands of women planning to look just a bit prettier this Christmas with a holiday hairdo will be disappointed. For leading Cambridge hairdressers have announced they have been forced to cut their bookings by almost half because of Government measurers that say only five out of the next ten days can be worked. Joshua Taylor's hairdressing department "Raymond" said, "We can do simple appointments which won't involve the use of electricity but I estimate we will have to turn about 1,000 people away"

1974 01 16

Women's libbers pulled off a master stroke when they won equal rights in Huntingdon's new working men's club being built on the town's housing estate. And minutes after the decision was announced, the first woman was voted onto the management committee of the 700-member BRJ club under construction at Sallowbush road. Not content with their victory, the women are also demanding that as the men have had two fund-raising stag nights they should have the chance of a hen party

1974 12 16

Trinity Hall to admit women [10.6]

1975

Dame Rosemary Murray first women Vice Chancellor [5.10]

1975 05 28

Trinity to take women from Oct 76 - graduates & Oct 78 - undergrads [10.1]

1975 05 08

It seems to take a certain sort of woman to cope successfully with the life of being the wife of a professional football player or manager. The wife of Cambridge United's new and highly successful manager fulfils the role perfectly. Ron Atkinson's life is football. Apart from cutting the grass once a week and taking his car to the car wash he leaves to his wife all the responsibility for the day-to-day running of the home and garden. From the time she takes Ron's breakfast up to him in bed with the papers - he reads them all avidly - life in their home revolves around the one subject. When Ron does have a spare moment he reads football books and magazines.

1975 05 16

Fourteen Cambridge student bodyguards were out in the city last night looking after single girls who fear the rapist may strike again. The Eden Street based Townswomen's Liberation Group has arranged for a self-defence demonstration. It will be for the benefit of anyone fearing assault. The Cambridge Evening News has offered a reward of £1,000 for information leading to the rapist's arrest and conviction.

1975 05 24

For the first time since it was produced almost 20 years ago a prize-winning history of Cherry Hinton is to be available for reference at libraries. The contents were compiled by the Women's Institute in 1958. But the book, hand-written and with water-colour sketches, was too fragile to be easily available. But now staff from the Cambridgeshire Collection have made three complete copies of the book. One will be at Cherry Hinton library.

1975 05 28

Cambridge's largest all-male college, Trinity is to admit women. Graduate women students will be admitted from October 1976 and undergraduate women from October 1978. The college decision puts Trinity fourth in line amongst previous all-male colleges who are now planning to open their door both to women dons and students. In 1976 Sidney Sussex and Selwyn colleges will become co-educational, followed in 1977 by Trinity Hall

1975 10 20

A hunt begins to find former women dentists living in the area. If they can be persuaded to come back into the profession they may save dental services from imminent collapse. Health chiefs fear that unless the women are found quickly, an already serious shortage of dentists could become critical

1975 10 29

When I told friends I was going to sleep in the Victorian cells at Huntingdon police station they decided I was mad. After an hour lying on a rock-hard mattress with a wood block as my only pillow I began to think they were right. There is no provision for women. "We just say this is the woman's cell because it is a bit cleaner, doesn't smell so much and is nearer the loo", the sergeant said. Then he led me across the courtyard and into the air-conditioned warmth of the new police station. Seven cells have been provided for men and six for women. Every one has its own built-in toilet, central heating and air conditioning. Some senior detectives feel that the new cells are a trifle too comfy. Within the next ten days the old dungeons are to be destroyed to make way for a car park

1975 11 07

There are three restaurants in Cambridgeshire that are worth a star – according to Mr Egon Ronay in his latest guide, just published. The Old Fire Engine House at Ely, the Pheasant Inn at Keyston and Swavesey's Hotel de la Poste are amongst the best eating places in England. At Swavesey patrons are assured of an "extensive, interesting and impeccably French menu and swift bustling service". The Pheasant produces intriguing sea-food dishes & at the Old Fire Engine local women who have had no real professional training cook to a consistently high standard

1975 11 15

Male chauvinist drivers in Cambridgeshire beware – for the police driver who pulls you in could well turn out to be a woman. Cambridgeshire Traffic Division has just successfully trained its first three female drivers. WPCs Jill Melville, Susan Ashwell and Penny Bailey have sailed through the very stringent advanced police test and will be working with senior traffic patrols. They are the first in the country to become traffic drivers in a totally integrated force. They can handle £5,000-worth of police Range Rover as professionally as any man.

1975 11 20

The number of women seeking Cambridge University places has remained virtually unchanged despite the opening of three previously all-male colleges to girl applicants. At present, with three

women's and three mixed colleges about 500 women a year are being admitted. By 1978 four more colleges will have become mixed, bringing the expected number to 650 women. Miss Sheila Edmonds, Vice-Principal of Newnham College said while some well-qualified candidates still do not secure a Cambridge place, this would not be true if the total admission were 650, instead of 500.

1976 01 15

Eight women working on an horticultural farm near Wisbech have come out strongly against the new sex discrimination and equal pay laws. They want to be freed from the legislation that would give them the same pay as the menfolk on the farm because they do not drive tractors or lift heavy boxes. They have told the Agricultural Wages Committee that as they are not willing to do this sort of heavy work, they would be satisfied with being paid 75% of the wages earned by the men.

1976 04 24

A Cambridge researcher has collaborated in helping a 35-year-old woman become pregnant by using the test-tube baby technique. Dr Bob Edwards, from Cambridge University Physiology Department, has been working on the technique for ten years in collaboration with Mr Patrick Steptoe of Oldham and District General Hospital. The success is the first documented case using the method, but the pregnancy developed in the tube connecting an ovary to the womb and the foetus died.

1976 05 30

Selwyn start to take women [9.9]

1976 10 12

More than 500 women who make their living on fenland potato-handling plants are on short-time working because of the clump in demand. The plants, which prepare potatoes for powdered substitutes, chipping, pre-packing, crisping and the retail trade are only ticking over at a time of the year when they would normally be working flat out. As a result many poorer families are now caught in a poverty trap, working only 15 hours a week instead of 35. Even in normal times they earn between 60p and 70p an hour, which is well below the agricultural minimum of 91p an hour.

1976 10 28

In a "double wedding" the Vicar of Thaxted "married" two female couples. The women had their union blessed in the parish church by the vicar, president of the Gay Christians, an organisation for homosexual men and women. Parts of the Church of England marriage service were incorporated in the ceremony. Later the couples and their friends celebrated with drinks at the Turk's Head Stable Bar, Cambridge and the guests went on for more drinks at the Gay Scaramouche Club in Cambridge. One said the couple were women from Cambridge, not students.

1976 11 10

A proposal to set up nursery and crèche facilities within Cambridge University for the children of its staff and students was "wholly impracticable", dons were told. Parents ought to bear the responsibility for their children, "it was not something for the university or colleges to shoulder". But trades union officials said that Pye's had already provided nursery facilities for their staff. It would provide refreshment and revitalisation & allow women freed from family ties to become workers, students and academics.

1976 12 07

The curator of the Cambridge Folk Museum, Miss Enid Porter, is retiring this week because of ill-health, after running it single-handed for about 29 years. At the moment she is in hospital and the museum is closed. Since she took charge of the museum in 1947 its popularity and size have grown considerably. It was started following an exhibition of folk items by the Women's Institute in 1936. Cambridge Rotarians launched an appeal for a folk museum and eventually the present premises in Castle Street were acquired. Miss Porter has been a prolific author, writing books on Cambridgeshire folklore and customs and contributing articles to regional magazines.

1977 04 06

Mill Road Maternity Hospital in Cambridge, a former workhouse, was slammed for its cramped and appalling conditions. A report highlights overcrowding, complete lack of privacy for patients, appalling residences for nurses & pregnant women having to sit clad only in a dressing gown in draughty corridors waiting for attention. It is virtually impossible to expand the hospital, access is difficult and car parking impossible. This is a disgraceful state of affairs for a maternity hospital doing the standard of work that Cambridge does. It should be replaced by a 100-bed obstetrics hospital on the New Addenbrooke's site as soon as finance is available

1977 07 11

A woman celebrated 50 years as a typist with the University Typewriting Office Ltd in Cambridge. Miss Dulcie Smith from Histon joined the firm when staff were enjoying new found freedom. "We were never allowed to come to the office unless we were properly dressed with hats and gloves and just before that the staff were never allowed to go into colleges unless they were chaperoned", she said. She has typed thousands of letters, accounts, theses and reports for dons and students and had to master the art of typing in a number of languages without having any knowledge of them.

1977 09 02

Girl will continue to be barred from grants to aid further education from a charity at Steeple Bumpstead despite recent sex equality legislation. Village boys qualify for money from the wealthy George Gent Trust to help offset the cost of a university degree and the Charity Commission has ruled that the original "Men only" intention of the benefactor must be adhered to. The Parish council chairman said: "There are many local parents who would have been glad of an extra £50 to help send their daughters on to higher education". But the vicar said the original intention should be allowed to stand: "Often when a woman gets a degree it's a waste of money. She gets married and all the money that's been spent on her is wasted".

1977 11 12

A Cambridge genetics student has been refused a place in the university's late-night firewatch patrols, because she is a woman. But after she threatened to take the university before an industrial tribunal unless she is allowed to apply for the £16-a-night job an official said the policy was being reconsidered, adding: "At the time we started these patrols we did not think it would be right to subject young ladies to walking around all night". The patrol involves walking around different university sites and anybody who was worried by the prospect would not apply in the first place

1978

Girton College admits men

1978 01 24

Members of the National Women's Aid Foundation have worked long and hard to establish a refuge for battered women in Cambridge. After they were given the use of an old three-storey house which had been used for emergency accommodation came the physical hard work of cleaning, stripping, decorating and plumbing. The task is not yet complete; work is still going on to provide a sitting room for the women, most of who arrive with only clothes for themselves and their children. Once they are in the refuge they run the house themselves as a group and make rules about such things as children's bedtimes and bathtimes. It is a temporary resting place until they get some permanent accommodation of their own

1978 03 07

Princess Anne was mobbed by student demonstrators when she arrived at the Cambridge Union Society Rag charity debate. She was held up outside the door by demonstrators sitting in her path and screaming abuse. They were protesting that the motion "The woman's place is in the harem" was sexist" and none of the abuse was directed personally against the princess. Nearly 150 demonstrators representing a variety of student groups including Gay Cambridge, Anarchists and Men Against

Sexism picketed all entrances to the building. Other guests ran the gauntlet, Derek Nimmo was spat on and Robert Morley was catcalled and buffeted.

1978 03 11

Down on the pig farm something stirred, for it was the day of the VIP visit by the Leader of the Conservative Party, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. First came the locals, anxious to get a glimpse of the woman dubbed the Iron Maiden. Next came the convoy of Pressmen, then the motorcade of organisers and officials. All eyes stretched skywards for a glimpse of the helicopter which ferried her from a tub-thumping speech at Wisbech to the Sears Brothers pig unit at Manea, one of the largest and most modern in the area. She was soon talking shop with the stockman, Mr Grenville Emmerson. Mrs Thatcher described it as the most efficient pig farm she had seen and with a classic smile and wave she was off to Peterborough, leaving the pigs to wonder what all the fuss had been about.

1979

Dr Marie Axtom first woman Proctor [5.11];

1979

Six more colleges take women [16.7]

1979 05 19

Forty per cent of Cambridge students are potential psychiatric cases, according to a report published by the Students' Union. There are a large number of reasons but whether Cambridge attracts people with a predisposition to mental illness or creates that illness once they arrive, the university has a responsibility to its students. The women in men's colleges are far more stressed than their counterparts in single-sex colleges and the male students about to be introduced into Girton, the oldest women's college, could end up suffering a corresponding weight of stress. The report is bound to spark off controversy among dons.

1980 07 11

An 11-year-old Fen Ditton girl, Lisa Colclough, has won a British women's title in roller-skating – the sport's youngest-ever national champion. She was also runner-up in figure skating. Roller-skating is run along parallel lines to ice skating – much too seriously for Lisa to take her skates out on the Fen Ditton primary school playground with her friends. They cost £200 a pair and the wheels would soon crack. 80 07 11e

1980 07 25

Arthur Prior joined the staff of Trinity in 1935 as the youngest porter ever employed by a Cambridge college for the princely wage of £2.15s. a week in the days when porters expected tips for their services; today he retires after being Head Porter for 14 years having served five different Masters. He is philosophical about major changes such as the admission of women. "These youngsters think they invented sex, but we had women here when I first came. They used to stay all night even then, and we knew all about it", he said. 80 07 25

1980 08 28

Harmony is reigning supreme over Steeple Bumpstead where the village's female barber-shop chorus has soared to success after it was formed a year ago. Now the 'Countryline Chapter' has been admitted to the US-based 'Sweet Adeline' organisation. They comprise women of all ages and from all walks of life including one lass with polio who sings in her wheelchair. They get on well with the Saffron Walden men's barber-shop quartet and go to concerts together. 80 08 28

1980 09 29

It is fifteen years since Kempton's fashion shop started in Fore Hill, Ely. Now another has opened in the Rookery shopping development at Newmarket. Customers can be sure of good personal service by somebody who knows what the fashion business is about. It will stock the best range of coats in town

and will keep up to date with new styles while keeping an eye open for the 'evergreen' popular clothes sought by the woman who remains conservative in her choice. 80 09 29a

1980 11 08

An exclusive university dining club may open its doors to the public. The Pitt Club is a miniature men-only London club where prospective members are vetted carefully and anyone without a public school education is likely to be black-balled. It also houses the Hawks Club for university sporting Blues. But it is no longer making money and is looking for tenants to share the former Turkish bath house in Jesus Lane. Strudels, one of the restaurants in the Kite facing eviction, is amongst a number to express an interest. 80 11 08

1981 01 28

A Cambridge student has set up a computer dating service for lonely hearts in the university. For just 50p the unattached undergraduate is promised an introduction to the partner of his dreams. Confidential questionnaires drawn up by a student of experimental psychology were sent out and the results loaded on a computer. It matches them up to produce ideal partners and bliss ensues. It is hoped the first couples will be paired off by St Valentine's Day 81 01 28

1981 03 12

The first refuge for battered women opened in Cambridge three years ago; about 285 women and 450 children have been through its doors. At one stage 10 women and 20 children were sharing the three-storey five-bedroomed house. It can take six months before alternative accommodation can be found and some women, depressed by the long wait are driven into returning home. Now a second refuge has been provided to relieve some of the pressure. 81 03 12a

1981 10 26

Corpus admit women [6.2]

1981 12 29

A women's peace camp has been set up in freezing conditions near RAF Molesworth by anti-Cruise missile campaigners. Dozens of protestors gathered at the tiny village of Clopton near the base where the missiles are expected to be deployed in 1983. Three women and their two dogs intend to live 'indefinitely' in two old caravans on the base perimeter. A similar vigil is being kept at Greenham Common in Berkshire. 81 12 29

1982 01 07

A rape crisis centre is to open in Cambridge following the initiative of a group of women, mostly university students. They will provide sympathy but also give information on where to get VD and pregnancy tests and accompany victims to the police station. Most of the cash to set up the telephone advice line has come from the university. There has been no hostile reaction, but they have been surprised that many of the women who phone up were raped years ago. 82 01 07b

1982 05 25

Jane Barrett, the joint managing director of the Cambridge china and glass specialists, has become the first woman in the world to have a Royal Doulton crinoline lady named after her. 'Jane', a portrait of an Edwardian lady holding a parasol, has been created exclusively to celebrate Barretts bi-centenary this year and will only be sold at their shop in St Mary's Passage. 82 05 25 & a

1982 06 11

Pembroke College has bowed to the trend and decided to admit women students for the first time in its 635-year history. But the first arrivals are not expected until October 1984. Now only two colleges will be left as male-only preserves. Peterhouse has voted not to admit women in the foreseeable future and Magdalene has not even debated the issue. The Leys School is also to open its doors to girls with 50 admitted into the sixth-form in 1982. 82 06 11

1982 09 24

St Johns to take women from October [9.7]

1983 01 19

A former baby wear factory tucked out of sight behind the Great Northern Hotel is to be the home of an ambitious new project to help women break into the new technology jobs market. The Cambridge Women's Resources Centre will start computer courses taught by women with crèche and child-care facilities. Eventually they want to offer lessons in carpentry, trade unions and the law. 83 01 19

1083 01 27

Lady Nicol of Newnham, the former Cambridge councillor, took her seat in the House of Lords. Lady Nicol, who was the first woman president of the Cambridge Co-op, was sponsored by Lady David, a former Labour Cambridgeshire County Councillor. She does not know when she will make her maiden speech but it will probably be on the environment in which she has a special interest. 83 01 27

1983 03 15

Peterhouse, the oldest of Cambridge's 25 colleges, is to open its doors to women undergraduates from October 1985. The college, which is renowned for its traditionalism, had always opposed the admission of women until last year, when a surprise bid to reverse its policy was only narrowly defeated at a governing body meeting. Now only one Cambridge College – Magdalene – is remaining men-only. 83 03 15 p6

1983 09 17

Women will be able to give birth as naturally as possible - without drugs in a relaxed no-rules atmosphere – at the new maternity unit at Huntingdon's Hinchingbrooke Hospital. When labour pains start, they will not take to their beds but move round right up to the time of the birth. They will also be able to lie in water to counteract the pain of the first stage of labour, says John Hare, the consultant who has studied natural childbirth. 83 09 17 p10

1984 01 06

When Kitty Wilson, former Mayor of Saffron Walden sets out to do something it has to be the biggest and best. At her wedding there were 2,000 people, during her life she has played mother to 250 foster children and for her 80th birthday she took over the Town Hall. All day long friends, family and well-wishers flocked to the building where the main hall was festooned with flowers, presents and cards. "She's the most wonderful woman I have ever met. She will go out of her way for rich or poor. She's given her life to people", said one friend. 84 01 06 p21

1984 01 19

Enid Porter ran the Cambridge Folk Museum single-handed from 1947 for 30 years and the impressive collection now it now houses museum was largely as a result of her endeavour. She took the entrance money, arranged exhibitions and cleaned the museum. In 1968 she had not had a pay rise for 15 years; her wages were £8 a week at a time when comparable jobs were paying £1,500 a year. Richard Wilson, the current curator said "She was a marvellous lively woman who gave her life to the museum". 84 01 19 p6

1984 10 01

Ninety years ago a shrewd and enterprising woman was born, Mrs Catherine Holland. Her first husband died young and she needed to make a living by supplying yeast which was much in demand among the many local bakers. Although vital it was only used in minute amounts so Mr Holland was able to cycle around making his deliveries. The yeast was supplied in huge sacks and the secret was to keep it fresh by selling it in small amounts at regular intervals. For a long time the business was continued in the family home in Sedgwick Street but during the First World War they got the sole agency for a major brand and moved to Mill Road. After that the business prospered. 84 10 01 p15

1985

Peterhouse admits women

1985 02 06

The Molesworth peace camp was smashed in a massive combined military and police operation masterminded by Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine. They swooped in the dead of night catching almost 200 anti-Cruise missile protesters by surprise while 1,500 soldiers set about erecting a seven-and-a-half-mile fence around the base. Amongst those living at 'Rainbow Fields' were about 25 babies and a woman about to give birth. Police provided fuel to allow some of their vehicles to leave and emergency arrangements were made to provide shelter for women and children who needed it. 85 02 06

1985 02 06

The smashing of the peace camp at Molesworth was met with delight by members of the Ratepayers Against Molesworth Settlement. Its leader hailed it as a triumph for law and order and a Union Flag was flying from the pub at Clopton on the edge of the base. But Cambridgeshire's Liberal Group condemned the action as counter-productive fearing that protestors may get under the skin of locals now they have no place to camp away from the village. A member of Christian CND says plans for a massive peace rally of up to 50,000 campaigners will now have to be revised 85 02 06a

1985 07 11

A crowd assembled at Eltisley as the new Village Sign was handed over to the Parish Council by the Women's Institute in a special ceremony. It depicts the church with some thunder and lightning representing a storm which, legend has it, wreaked havoc on the village. It was the WI project for 1984 and the council supplied a plinth of York stone. At the same time the Best Kept Village Award given to Eltisley by the Cambridge Evening News in 1983 was erected nearby 85 07 11

1985 08 03

One hundred years ago 14 women students enrolled in a new pioneering college set up in two houses in Merton Street, Newnham. Its aim was to train women to teach in secondary schools. Over the century that college has changed character and direction several times and under its present name of Hughes Hall it has just been awarded Approved Foundation status within Cambridge University. Despite the financial problems of the present day it is planning new buildings at its site in Wollaston Road. 85 08 03a

1985 11 19

Hundreds of Muslims in Cambridge regularly make their way to the mosque, tucked discreetly away near bustling Mill Road. Leading the gathering was the Imam, an Egyptian PhD student in chemistry at Cambridge University. He spoke in Arabic and English, stressing the importance of unity among Muslims. Many of the congregation were of Middle-Eastern origin but there were also several Orientals and English people. They were predominately in the 25 to 40 age range and listened intently. Upstairs a woman followed the service alone, out of sight. After 40 minutes the meeting ended, as it had begun, with a reading from the Koran. 85 11 29b

1986 09 28

Miss Annie Carnegie-Brown has died at the age of 90. She was Cambridge's first policewoman in 1923 at a salary of £3 a week. Slightly built, she was stabbed with a carving knife while arresting a well-built Ely woman. A doctor clipped her wound and she returned to duty next day. During the war, as a fluent German speaker, she was involved in the interrogation of spies and retired as a sergeant in 1947. Until the end she was a clear-thinking determined old lady who enjoyed fishing but never talked about the past 86 09 28

1989 09 29

Dame Rosemary Murray, retiring President of New Hall and the first Woman Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, has often been mistaken for the college gardener. As handyman, tutor and

administrator she has been responsible for shaping the character of the college almost single-handedly. It opened in 1954 with 16 women undergraduates and has now built up to 300 students. But though none of the undergraduates can be men, some of their teaching Fellows are: the Sex Discrimination Act works against them 86 09 29a

1986 10 10

Magdalene, the one college in the Oxbridge system where a chap could count on being in the exclusive company of other chaps, is set to go co-educational. The governing body has voted to overturn 444 years of historical precedent and amend the statutes. The news was greeted with glum resignation by some of the present undergraduates. That other bastion of entrenched traditionalism, Peterhouse, finally said yes to women students last year, a trend that started in 1972 when Churchill, Clare and King's went mixed. 86 10 10 [8.5]

1987 02 13

Tributes to Conservative County Council leader Mrs Emily Blatch have been flowing in following the news that she is to become a baroness. Social Security Minister, Mr John Major, said "She was an outstanding leader and will make a very substantial contribution to the work of Parliament" while Sir Anthony Grant MP thinks it's very good news. Mrs Blatch is the fifth woman in Cambridgeshire to be made a baroness. Among her colleagues in the Lords will be Baroness Nicol of Newnham 87 02 13

1987 04 01

Princess Anne has become the first member of the Royal Family to visit the Great Chesterford factory of Swaine Adeney Brigg and Sons. The firm has made umbrellas, gloves, walking sticks and other leather goods for most of her relatives and ancestors since the reign of George III. The Princess and her husband, Captain Mark Phillips chatted to Joan Cowley who supervises 16 women producing 900 umbrellas a week. She also saw a despatch box belonging to Prince Charles that was being refurbished as it had got a bit tatty. 87 04 01

1988 03 15

Three Japanese women are visiting Cambridge to collect wartime memories of families in Britain, West Germany and Japan who took in evacuee children. 88 03 15b

1988 04 14

For half a century Roger Asbury has coaxed women's hair into place while listening to their confidences and problems. There has been an Asbury cutting hair in Cambridge since his father, Wilfred, took over a business called Alma Mater in Trinity Street in 1919. Perms were very different when Roger started in hairdressing at 17. In his Cherry Hinton Road salon he keeps the old perming equipment from the days when women would sit with their hair in curlers strung up to an electrical machine. In those days they expected perms to last six months. 88 04 14a

1988 05 20

Magdalene is the only college in Cambridge to host candle-lit dinners in the grand hall every night of the week. But other traditional values are changing. The decision to admit women dons and undergraduates has prompted refurbishment of the college's Spartan amenities, bringing in floral curtains and pastel pink wallpaper to the rooms of even the hardiest rugby players. Today much of the opposition to the decision has subsided, although the 'Black October' dining society still celebrates the masculine virtues of single-sex colleges. Whether the college's character can survive this quantum leap into the present remains to be seen 88 05 20b

1988 05 20

The trend towards admitting female undergraduates began in 1972 when Churchill, Clare and King's Colleges went mixed. Two of the first girls were from Cambridge schools. By June 1982 when Pembroke 'fell' there were only two colleges left as all-male preserves, then Peterhouse reluctantly bowed to pressure. But when Magdalene's governing body overturned 444 years of historical precedent by voting to let in women an indignant porter flew a black flag at half mast and

undergraduates sported black armbands. Three of the original four women's colleges are still single sex, though Girton admitted men in 1977. 88 05 20c

1988 07 13

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service delivered a staggering 413,226 meals in Cambridgeshire last year and their Books on Wheels made 289 visits to the housebound. A further 1,856 people were helped with clothing, 160 children were given a week's summer holiday and 15 people received the service of a chiropodist. There is much more: they man mobile canteens, set up rest centres and provide blankets and clothing for victims of emergency. Organiser Muriel Humphrey says "It's a rich and rewarding job and you meet such lovely people" 88 07 13b

1988 10 12

Thirty-six women undergraduates arrived at Magdalene College amid a blaze of publicity breaking 444 years of history as a male-only college, the last in Cambridge. They had been warned about the dreaded Black October dining society whose members donned funereal armbands when it was announced that the college was to 'fall', and expected a lukewarm welcome. Surprisingly the reverse is true. One said "I think some of the men were frightened that the girls were going to be extremely militant or feminist. But they seem quite pleased and say it is a lot more social" 88 10 12

1989 04 14

Lady Alice Bragg, Cambridge's first woman mayor from 1945-46, read history at Newnham College between 1918 and 1921. In the year she finished she married Sir Laurence Bragg who was already a renowned scientist, having won the Nobel Prize for physics six years previously, aged 25. She served as an independent councillor, magistrate and chairman of the National Marriage Guidance Council in recognition of which she was made a CBE 89 04 14

1989 11 20

An elderly woman recluse in Toseland had to be coaxed from the house she had not left for more than half a century. She had lived by candlelight in the old farmhouse without mains water and electricity. She had no inside toilet and only an outside standpipe for water. But the roof collapsed while she was downstairs and part of an upper ceiling also caved in forcing firemen to dismantle a gable end fronting the road. The 84-year-old was taken to an old folks' home where she was fascinated by the bedside lights and spent the day making tea 89 11 20a

1990 03 15

A baby has been born to a surrogate mother after treatment at Bourn Hall Clinic and another is expected soon. The news coincides with B.M.A. official backing for the first time to this method of test-tube fertilisation. Bourn's medical director welcomes the ruling as it confirms what they believed, that people without wombs should be helped to give birth by a sister or close friend. He stressed they would not countenance any kind of commercialisation. 90 03 15

1990 06 06

Addenbrooke's Hospital transplant thigh bone of teenage girl into 73-year-old woman; first in country – 90 06 06

1990 10 19

Cambridge Escort Agency – profile – 90 10 19d